Friday, March 25, 2011 | 16 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 107 / P10 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alerts

Female broadcaster slain

HARUMIA "Lou" Flores-Somera

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

Killer picks up spent shell, walks away calmly

By Nikko Dizon

A LONE GUNMAN shot and killed a radio news anchor with a single bullet fired to the back of the head. He then picked up the spent shell and walked away calmly, police said.

Marlina "Lou" Flores-Somera, 45, of radio station dxMD's "Narinigdig DXB," was killed a few minutes away from her home on Tabunan Street at Barangay Mayolo in Malabon City as she was about to board a jeepney on her way to work yesterday morning.

Supt. Roel Garavilla, Northern Police District public information chief, said the bullet entered Somera's carpal and exited through her eye.

The gunman was a professional hired killer who left no fingerprint clues at the crime scene. Even the empty shell of an unknown pistol was picked up by the gunman, Garavilla said.

The assailant also took Somera's mobile phone and handbag in order to make it look like a robbery, the officer said.

Somera was pronounced dead on arrival at Valenzuela General Hospital.

She was the fourth journalist to be killed under the Aquino administration and the 142nd since the return of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, said the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

Reyman Pacano, the union's secretary general, said the attack on Somera was unusual, pointing out that she was only the ninth female journalist to be murdered.

According to police, there were three accomplices: one

FEMALE A3

PH bans Japan milk chocolates; global embargo widens

By Kristine L. Alave

BUREAU of Animal Industry (BAI) Director Alexis Nacnac yesterday said he had issued "verbal orders" banning Japanese chocolate milk products from being shipped to the Philippines after the March 11 earthquake, to ensure countries do not ban imports from quake-hit Japan.

Russia, Australia, Canada and Singapore were the latest to join the list of countries which had banned Japanese food imports as anxieties about atomic radiation spread from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, stoking global anxiety.

A brand color "is being [halted]" resulting a previous clearance for the import of Japanese chocolate milk products, Nacnac told the Inquirer.

"We will recall the veterinary quarantine clearance for chocolate milk products that were shipped into the Philippines at the March 11," Nacnac said.

The BAI said the Bureau of

PH BANS A2

PH not sending rescue team; PAL to ferry relief goods / A22

Real story behind the Hollywood legend

DEEP DIVE GORGEOUS The restored Bo photo shows Elizabeth Taylor at her peak. She overcame long violet-eyed beauty, who captured hearts as "National Velvet" to launch a film career that spanned five decades. Below, fans place flowers beside Taylor's photo at the Hollywood Walk of Fame in California on Wednesday.

LOS ANGELES—In death, the actress heralded for her great beauty, iconic star appeal, talent, passion, tireless humanitarian work, and the compassion and optimism she exuded despite decades of physical ailments.

But Elizabeth Taylor was, above all else, a performer—a three-time Oscar winner, a two-time child star whose first movie as an adult was her most splashy and scenery-chewing.

She may not have been the greatest actress of her generation in terms of pure talent and technique, but she had an unmistakable screen presence that kept audiences riveted.

REAL A10

BIR sues 3 former Philcomsat executives

By Nikko Dizon

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday filed tax evasion charges against three former officials of PHC Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), which stemmed from a 2006 Senate investigation of alleged questionable disbursements of corporate funds.

The charges were filed in the Department of Justice against former PHC chair and director Bruno Ramon Iscaro Jr., and former directors Philip Brodett and Luis Lokin Jr.

Among the three respondents, it was Brodett who appeared to have allegedly underdeclared income filed in ordinary years could only devote of

BIR Deputy Commissioner Teresita Sales said at a press conference that the investigation of the three former PHC officials were based on the Senate inquiry in 2006, documents provided by informants and corporate records "showing that they evaded that income."

Philcomsat is a holdings co-

BRIBES A13

Binay walking tall in latest survey

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay must be walking tall these days.

Just nine months in office, Binay has emerged as the "most trusted" national government official, ahead of the still popular President Aquino, according to results of a Pulse Asia survey released yesterday.

The Vice President has also become the country's official with the highest approval rating.

The President's approval rating slightly

BINAY A13

COUNTDOWN: 5 DAYS

'Don't forget to pray, don't lose hope'

By DJ Yap

DESPERATE Ordinario Sao and wife Jocelyn Ann Sao-Ordinario have been praying for a miracle that their son Jeffrey Sao will be found alive.

Jeffrey, 19, was last seen on March 20. "I didn't expect it to happen, that my daughter will live," Ordinario said yesterday in a chance interview at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), which is making the travel arrangements for the transfer of the drug trafficking convicts.

"Wala kaming tulog [We haven't slept] since we got the news. Don't forget to pray, don't lose hope," he told the inquirer.

But while he is counting hopes, Ordinario said he had fully realized that nothing short of a miracle could save his daughter now.

"It seems as if I will drop it's all I think about," he said.

Villanueva, Ramon Credo, 41, and Elizabeth Sotelo, 38,

DON'T FORGET A4

Executions should not strain diplomatic ties / A8

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PH Azkals must win vs Bangladesh today

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Gadhafi coerced firms into paying for Lockerbie

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Ligot arrested for Senate contempt

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

2-2-21
6 9 8 5 1 3

6/45 LUZ-VIS-MIN
4 12 26 28 37 42
P11,946,315.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
8 10 17 20 37 40
P69,021,802.80

Ligot arrested for contempt

But Senate suspends arrest, detention of wife

By TJ Burgonio

FOR snubbing the inquiry into military corruption without justifiable reason, former military budget officer Jacinto Ligot and his wife Erlinda have been cited for contempt by the Senate.

The former general was immediately arrested last night in a military officers' housing village in Taguig and is now in Senate custody.

However, the arrest and detention order for Mrs. Ligot has been suspended for "humanitarian reasons" because of her health, said Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Senate sergeant-at-arms Jose Balagtala said Ligot did not resist arrest. He was brought at 8 p.m. to the Senate detention room, where he was checked by doctors.

He will be allowed visits by immediate family members and his lawyers during office hours, Balagtala said.

After mustering the required votes, the committee yesterday ordered the Senate sergeant-at-arms to enforce the contempt order on Ligot and arrest and detain him "until such time that he will appear and give his testimony."

Through their lawyers, the Ligots had earlier informed the committee that they could not attend the hearing for health reasons. But a Senate doctor visited them at home and found them to be healthy enough to appear at the hearing.

After the hearing finished past noon, Guingona entered for lifting the contempt order for the Ligot couple.

By 1 p.m., Guingona and Senators Ralph Recto, Gregorio Honasan II, Francis Escudero, Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Pia Cayetano, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Juan Miguel Zubiri had signed the order. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada also signed as ex-officio members.

Malingering

In the order, Guingona said that Ligot has in effect, delayed, impeded and obstructed the inquiry by skipping the hearing due to an illness that "proved to be false."

Earlier, the Cabinet, Peace and Power Law Offices wrote to the committee to say that Erlinda was suffering from severe pulpitis, tonsillitis and acute gastroenteritis while Jacinto was down with the flu, and could therefore not attend the hearing.

Recto then ordered the Senate doctor, Mariano Blanco, to go to the Ligots' home to check on their condition.

Blanco told the committee that he found Erlinda, who was recovering from diarrhea, and Jacinto, who took medication for flu, to be both "medically" able to attend the hearing.

"Of the two, he's more healthy to attend the hearing. His health condition is better. Both could have attended," he said.

Enrile said he regretted that "the Senate must exercise our coercive power to see to it that the institution will function properly as an instrument of the people for good, not for evil, to exact obedience if necessary, to make sure that it can function properly as Senate of the Philippines".

Cars for deputies

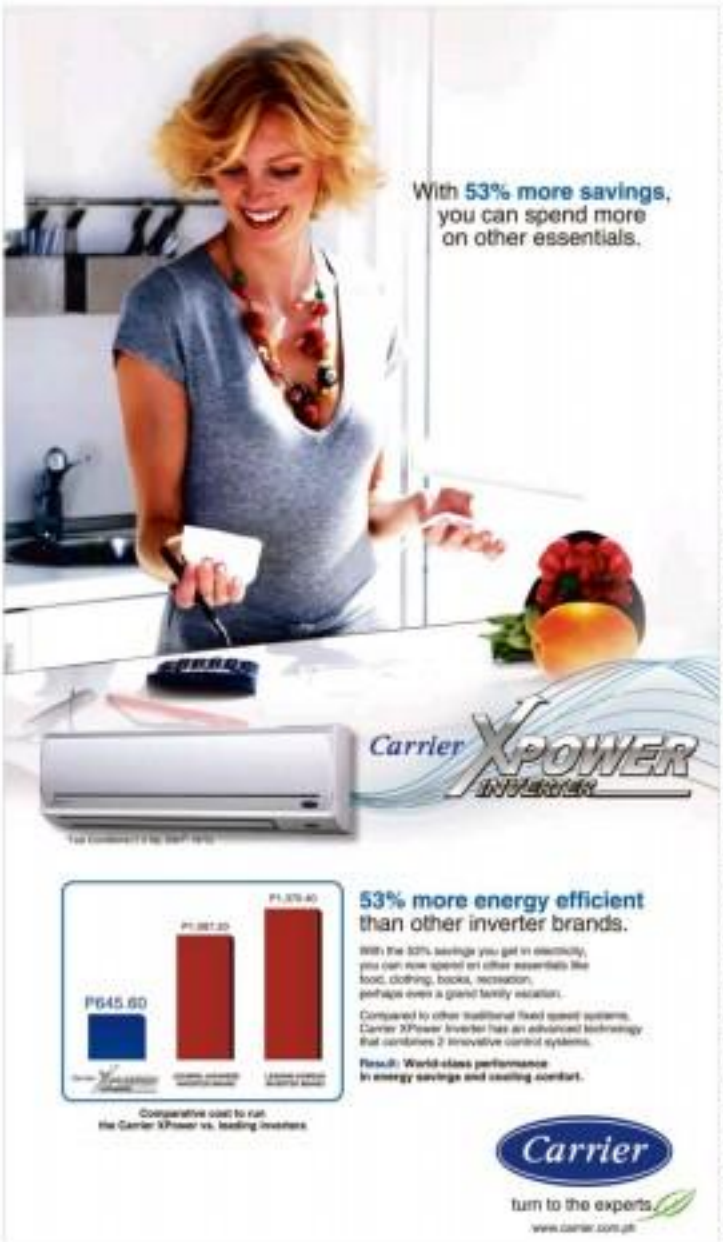
At yesterday's hearing, Colonels Cirilo Thomas Dowan Jr. and Servando Lim admitted receiving second-hand cars from the then military comptroller George Rabusa between 2000 and 2002. Both had served as Rabusa's deputies.

Dowan said he had no knowledge of corruption in the office of the comptroller.

Enrile grilled former Armed Forces Chief Hermoclito Villanueva and Rabusa on why they had to convert military funds into cash, but the latter failed to answer him satisfactorily.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) yesterday said Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval should inhibit himself or be disqualified from the ex-military comptroller Carlos Garcia's plunder case, as Sandoval's son is a member of the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) that had entered into a plea bargain with Garcia.

Sandoval's son, Rex Reynaldo Sandoval, is an assistant special prosecutor of the OSP but is not part of the team handling the Garcia case nor is he a signatory to the plea bargain agreement.



Envoy back after thaw in PH-Taiwan ties

By DJ Yap

TAIWAN's de facto ambassador is back in the Philippines more than a month after he was recalled by his government following a diplomatic row over the deportation of 14 Taiwanese to China.

Donald Lee, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) representative, flew in from Taiwan early yesterday in what could be another sign of relations between the two governments returning to normal.

Lee, who was met at the airport by Chinese Filipino philanthropist James Dy and Teco chargé d'affaires Michael Hsu, said he was happy to be back in the country but declined to give any other statement.

Last December, Philippine immigration authorities arrested 14 Taiwanese and 14 Chinese on boards suspected of participating in an alleged scam in metallic Chinese characters out of millions of dollars.

Those arrested were all deported to China on Feb. 2, despite Taipei's protestations that the 14 Taiwanese should be sent back to Taiwan to face justice there and a habeas corpus order from the Court of Appeals.

This angered the Taiwan government which threatened retaliatory action some 600,000 Filipinos working in Taiwan unless the Philippines apologized.

The Philippine government has refused to do so, although it took measures to placate Taiwan's anger, such as sending an emissary, former Sen. Blas Ople.

It also replaced the Bureau of Immigration officer-in-charge Rosalinda Ledesma, a move that apparently pleased Taipei as it later relaxed the visa restrictions it had imposed on Filipinos applicants following the deportations row.

Lee most commissioner, the Philippines formally recognizes one China, has maintains trade and tourism ties with Taiwan, which Beijing considers a breakaway province and has sought to isolate internationally.

LEE

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PROSECUTING OMBUDSMAN

Prepare for trial, solons told

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Feliciano Belmonte has instructed members of the 11-man prosecuting team to prepare for the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez in the Senate and has allowed funds for this purpose.

Only three congressmen have so far been designated as prosecutors—Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tanada III and Bacoor Mayor Rep. Rodolfo Bautista.

But Belmonte said that the three can proceed with the preparations during the congressional break, as the appointment of the eight other members of the panel can be approved when Congress resumes its sessions on May 9.

"I told them to go ahead and talk to others, find out their backgrounds. So they have experience in litigation and do they want to commit their time and so forth, because once they do, it's their they can already participate in the preparation stage," Belmonte said.

Tupas has recommended for inclusion in the panel deputy speaker Raul Daza, Oriental Mindoro Rep. Reynaldo Umali, Bayan Muna party-list member Neri Colmenares and Akbayan party-list Risa Hontiveros.

Belmonte said no congressman would be deprived of their share of the pork barrel during the search.

Meanwhile, Belmonte yesterday urged Gutiez to go slow on his threat to file an impeachment complaint against some Supreme Court justices and instead focus on his job as a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of Gutierrez.

"In the first place, you've got a multiplicity of impeachment cases involving high-ranking officials. The fact that there was a huge groundswell of support behind the impeachment laws should make us feel stronger but also feel that's enough of a counter-intuitive actually leaning down on anybody," he said.

Belmonte, however, said he cannot tell Gutierrez not to file the complaint.

"We have no power to tell her not to file. She has the right to file. We cannot tell her not to file. We cannot tell her to file. She has the right to file. We cannot tell her to file," he said.

Belmonte said that Gutierrez has yet to name the three other members.

According to Belmonte, there was a need to expedite the hearing on the trial and give a 300 percent commitment.

He recalled that when he was part of the House prosecution panel during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, he had to give up being a minority leader.

"People should be prepared to give their best," he said.

"When I was part of prosecution, we couldn't sleep thinking what we would do the next day," he said.

Belmonte has committed to release P5 million initially for the expenses of the panel, including the hiring of private lawyers to assist at the trial.

The speaker also clarified his role in the overwhelming passage of the articles of impeachment in the plenary. A total of 221 congressmen voted in favor of impeachment, 46 voted against, while four abstained.

He said he called a majority of the members of the majority bloc, most of whom were responsible for his election as speaker.

"They were all there and my message was very simple: I wanted to be sure there is a quorum. How they vote will be up to them, and as it happened, I think four of the people who were there voted against. I understand the situation of those people," he said.

Belmonte said many were angry at a text message that allegedly came from a pro-impeachment congressman, warning that those who would not vote for impeachment would get non-pork barrel.

He said the alleged sender had denied being the source of the text. But the matter has been referred to the committee on rules at the insistence of Minority Leader Edcel Lagman.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday
Psalm Proper
Annunciation of Our Lord
(Is 66:1-6a, 6b-9, 10, 11
(Heb 10:4-10
(Jn 1:14-18

Once again Yahweh addressed Ahaz, 'Ask for a sign from Yahweh your God, let it come either from the deepest depths or from the heights of heaven.' But Ahaz answered, 'I will not ask, I will not put Yahweh to the test.' Then Isaiah said, 'Now listen, descendants of David. Have you not been satisfied trying the patience of people, that you also try the patience of my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

'The virgin is with child and bears a son and you call his name Immanuel.

'He is to feed on curds and honey (Immanuel) before he will know enough to reject evil and choose good.' (Is 1:24-28)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin who is betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, 'Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you.' Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, 'Do not fear, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor, he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end.'

Then Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be if I am a virgin?' And the angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible.'

Then Mary said, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said.' (Lk 1:26-38)

Reflection

Mary said, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said.' Through the humble acts of the annunciation, the evangelist Luke shows us how we should imitate Mary and invoke other humble and faithfulness of Mary our mother. She is for us the example of a disciple, she is truly a servant of the Lord. We will make the annunciation story the story of Mary and so learn from her how to follow God's will.

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Noynoy hosts dinner for impeachment vote

By Christine G. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino was scheduled to give a dinner last night, to "recognize" the "courageous" House members who voted for the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, sources said.

Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang confirmed the date but said he did not know where the dinner was going to be.

"The President wanted to recognize those who took courageous actions in the face of pressure for them to do otherwise," Carandang said.

A total of 212 congressmen voted to impeach Gutierrez early this week, paving the way for an impeachment trial in the Senate in May, when Congress resumes sessions.

On Wednesday, Mr. Aquino told the media in Cagayan de Oro City that he wanted Gutierrez out because he was "not happy" with her performance and that of her officials.

The President sought the people's support in his bid to remove Gutierrez.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda yesterday said Mr. Aquino was not worried about how the voting would go in the Senate, where his Liberal Party has only four members.

"Certainly, the President believes in the fairness of the senators. That's not in doubt," Lacierda told reporters.

"The President has every confidence that the impeachment is a strong complaint, that it has a strong basis to remove the Ombudsman," he said.

Lacierda said Gutierrez "has been a stumbling block in our reform efforts."

Enrile won't tolerate 'stunts' in Senate trial

By TJ Burgonio

BOSTON, in response to President Aquino's call to say people staging demonstrations or similar stunts in the Senate during the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez will not be tolerated by the Senate leadership.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday warned against unduly influencing the senators, who will be acting as judges, or disrupting the trial with protests or stunts inside the Senate building.

"I will not tolerate any disruption of the proceedings in this upcoming impeachment trial. You [do] criticize me, you can bang me openly, shame or spotlight, I don't care. But I will not let that other is mistreated," Enrile told reporters.

Anybody attempting to disrupt the proceedings will be arrested by the Senate security, he said.

He is and isn't

"I'll have them arrested, no ifs and buts about it. It's better that they understand," said Enrile, who will preside at the trial.

The Senate President said people were free to air their grievances elsewhere, and promised that the senators would not be swayed by mass action.

"These things will not affect our judgment. If I believe that what I'm doing is the right course, I don't heed public opinion, I do it," he said.

On the same day that the House transmitted the articles of impeachment against Gutierrez, Mr. Aquino said the people should support the impeachment of Gutierrez but did not say in what form.

Soon after receiving the articles, the senators voted to adopt the same rules of procedure used during the aborted impeachment trial of deposed President and convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada.

Silence of visitors

The rules include an amendment calling for silence of all visitors at all times "on pain of eviction from the trial venue."

The scheduled trial of Gutierrez once Congress resumes sessions in May is expected to be as politically charged as that of Estrada's aborted trial a decade ago.

Congress adjourns this week for the 45-day Holy Week break and resumes sessions on May 9.

Some senators have suggested that it would be as if former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was on trial as Gutierrez is being linked for allegedly acting on corruption cases that supposedly implicated Arroyo.

Enrile said he understood Mr. Aquino's appealing for public support for the Gutierrez impeachment.

"I guess the President is getting frustrated because he seems to do something, but he's shackled by some restrictive situations and norms operating in society. If you're the President, you'd feel the same way," he said.

Lobbying of people

Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said he would welcome opinions aired via text or on Facebook and Twitter, as he say, party-"the lobbying of people, not political groups, not lobby groups."

He said blindsiding "should not affect the ability of people to make an informed judgment rather than ask senators to do this or push people to do that."

Enrile advised the senators to brush up on the rules of evidence and rules of court in preparation for the trial, something which they could do while they are confined in internal trips dressed using the congressional break.

As for the lawmakers among the senators, they have to use their common sense in appreciating evidence, he said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said he has reconsidered that all testimonies senators take a crash course in litigation. "I'll be having a briefing with a trial lawyer," he said.

Enrile did not disclosure that political alliances would be a factor in the trial.

Church calls for nationwide anti-RH rally today

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO SHOW that its "will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," the Catholic Church will hold today a massive prayer rally against the reproductive health (RH) bill pending in Congress.

Motorists are advised to avoid the Luneta area in Manila from 3 p.m. to midnight.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will be at the forefront of the rally—dubbed "Pilipinas! United Under God for Life"—that will see Catholic dioceses from Luzon to Mindanao staging their own demonstrations.

"The prayer rally is for all those who value life, family and life unborn. Your presence will deliver the message that our country will never allow the repressive RH bill to be passed," Rosales said.

The RH bills pending in the House of Representatives and the Senate would mandate the government to provide artificial birth control means to citizens who demand it. They also call for reproductive health education beginning in the primary grades.

The Catholic Church in the country is staunchly opposed to this.

'Walk for Life'

Among those expected to attend the rally at the Luneta are Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde. A video message from boxing champion Rep. Manny Pacquiao will be shown.

On Saturday, former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is expected at a "Walk for Life" from San Agustin Church in Intramuros to Ermita, Manila.

"The archdiocese of Manila and public groups are mobilizing for a massive eucharistical prayer rally and vigil from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. to protest life," said Msgr. Clemente Ignacio.

"The Church is letting our government know that it and other religions are against all laws that assault (but) any life," he added.

Aside from the dioceses nationwide, Catholic organizations, communities like El Shaddai and Couples for Christ, prolife groups, catechists, students, youth, and the urban poor will join the rally.

The program will start with the recitation of the rosary at 4 p.m. to be followed by the stations of the cross and other activities before a Mass at 7 p.m.

'Prodigal son' confesses but remains unrepentant

By Philip C. Tubeza

MIA-CULPA.

With hat in hand, popular homosexual tourist guide Carlos Celdran arrived at the Manila Cathedral at 11:30 a.m. yesterday to go to confession.

Pitch accent case hanging over his head, Celdran hoped to stumble a reconciliation with the Catholic Church after his well-publicized protest inside the cathedral in September last year.

It didn't help that Celdran was caught on a surveillance camera waving down an anti-RH (reproductive health) bill rapscallion outside the CBCP building also in Intramuros on Friday. It remains to be seen if the Church would forgive him for that one. A Church source said the decision would rest with Manila Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Rosales.

It was his first confession in 11 years.

Closure

Celdran said he confessed his sins to Fr. Johny Pendon so that he would have "closure" and "move on" after his boisterous protest, when he held up a sign with the name Jesus on it, led Church officials to change him with offending religious feelings before the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court. Samanta was the name of a hand rigid figurine in the revolutionary Jose Rizal novel, "Noli Me Tangere."

But Celdran insisted he would continue to fight the Church over its opposition to the RH bill pending in Congress—and that he "probably" would tear down more anti-RH bill posters.

For now, however, the focus should be on Congress and not on himself, Celdran said.

"The purpose was for closure and to move on. Sister had a very, very interesting opinion about (me being Lent and a time for people to stop blaming on themselves and) to start focusing on putting our goodness up on the world," Celdran later told reporters.

'Catholic Catholic'

"Now I think from this moment of my confessing and for me to find closure with one another, we can find the time to move on and try to spread goodness in the world in our own manner which we see fit," he said.

But hiding behind the mask of confession, Celdran, a self-described "subversive Catholic," declined to say how many Our Fathers and Hail Marys he had to say for his penance.

"I feel we've come to a very good renewal right now. I think (I had) a very understanding priest ... but whatever happened stays between us. Except even say how many Hail Marys (I prayed). I'll leave it up to you to guess how many," Celdran said.

Last confession

"My last confession was when I got married in 2008. Before that 11 years, 11 years of not confessing," he said.

Fr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said Celdran could be considered a "prodigal son" for his apology to the Church.

"In spirituality, there is constant forgiveness, constant understanding. But (when it comes to civil law, that's different," Castro said.

"So in any sense, in a personal or spiritual level, the Church's understanding is always there but in a still accountable to the law. We cannot remove that," he added.

Celdran, who said he apologized for the "manner" of his protest but not for its "message," and the Church were supposed to have reached a settlement in his court case. His lawyer had reportedly submitted a letter of apology as part of the settlement.

Fidgeting

Before going to confession, Celdran was fidgeting in his pew to the left of the main altar as he heard Mass. He did not take Holy Communion.

CELDRAN: "Closure will move another."

When it was over, Celdran approached Fr. Pendon and they went to a side room where the priest heard his confession.

"It was my first time (to go to the cathedral) since the (Sept. 30 protest). It was my first time to actually see the front again where I used to do the tours, and show where the bishops are buried," Cel. dran said.

"So it felt like, in a weird way, I was coming home," he said.

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All's well, Chinese envoy tells PH

A SAF officer a Hong Kong tourist were choked that Philippine officials caused the death of eight Hong Kong tourists in the August 2010 Luneta hostage crisis, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao indicated a desire for relations to return to normal, saying he would like to see Hong Kong tourists visiting the Philippines again.

"I hope that the issue has already been solved at the diplomatic and political level," Liu said in remarks made at the unveiling of a scale model of the Grand Hyatt Hotel project in Bonifacio Global City.

Premiere Aquino, who was the guest of honor at the five-hectare offsite mark only a tangential relation to the Luneta hostage crisis and did not refer at all to the August findings.

Extolled growth

Extolling the continued growth in tourist arrivals last week, the President said: "You came after the hostage crisis and several travel advisories which we think were not well-intentioned."

Last year, he said, 3.5 million tourists visited the country, a 15-percent increase from the 3 million who came in 2009 and also introduced a new P200 million increase in tourist receipts for the period.

In an interview with reporters after the ceremonies, and after Mr. Aquino had departed, Liu said he "We hope that the details and also the committee reached between the Philippine government and Hong Kong authorities will be carried out in a proper manner so that the normal exchange of personnel between the Philippines and Hong Kong will be resumed."

"In particular, we would like to see more Hong Kong tourists coming to the Philippines, to this beautiful country and to have a good time here," he said.

On Wednesday, a five-member jury at Hong Kong's convention's court convicted of that Philippine authorities caused the deaths of eight Hong Kong tourists gunned down by a disgruntled former police officer who held them tour bus hostage in Manila on Aug. 23, 2010.

During the ensuing diplomatic row, and with public anger running high in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong government issued a travel alert for the Philippines, advising citizens not to visit the country.

Minor charge

Last October, after Mr Aquino called for only minor criminal charges to be filed against four police officers for their role in the debacle and lesser administrative charges against Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Hong Kong officials and people rallied for an inquiry in the Chinese territory.

The report findings do not imply criminal or civil responsibility, Hong Kong coroner's inquests are generally limited to probing the cause of a person's death.

In his speech, Mr. Aquino thanked the Grand Hyatt investors—Megaworld and Federal Land—for putting up the hotel, and said it was a "manifestation of strong investor confidence in this country not in mere sentiments or pledges, but in actual plans and actions."

"I do not think this confidence and optimism of yours is misplaced," he said as he noted how tourist arrivals had increased last year and could be expected to increase even more during his watch.

He said the government was helping to make the hotel industry grow by among others, liberalizing aviation.

"We will be allowing foreign carriers to come here, inside their fins, we are at as fixing other problems that have prevented even more flights from coming in," he said.

Resolve issues

Mr. Aquino said he has given the Civil Aviation authority of the Philippines a year to resolve issues pertaining to the Category I status of the Philippines in the United States as well as the banning of Philippine carriers from flying to Europe.

"Once we do all of this, we will be closing some of the anxious bottlenecks that have prevented more visitors from coming into this country," he said. Norman Bordadora and Christine Avendaño

China warns vs Spratlys oil exploration

China warned Tuesday against any oil exploration without its consent in waters it claims in the South China Sea, after the Philippines announced plans for possible drilling.

Manila's Department of Energy said Wednesday that US-based Forum Energy had completed a seismic survey for the Reed Bank, near the disputed Spratly Islands.

The Spratlys are called the Nansha Islands in Chinese and claimed by Beijing.

"China holds indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent sea waters," foreign ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu told reporters when asked for comment on the plan.

"Any activities by countries or companies to explore for oil or gas in the sea waters in China's jurisdiction without the permission of the Chinese government will constitute a violation of China's sovereignty and ... will be illegal and invalid," Jiang did not make any direct reference in the Philippines or Forum Energy nor did she say the survey area was actually in waters under Chinese jurisdiction.

Chinese embassy officials in the Philippines, earlier requested a copy of the Forum Energy announcement, but did not return subsequent calls by AFP.

On Wednesday, Forum Energy said it used the survey data to evaluate the commercial potential of the block and on "help identify the best location for possible appraisal wells to be drilled."

The Reed Bank lies about 150 kilometers (90 miles) east of the repeatedly oil-rich Spratlys, which are claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines and China. AFP

Female radio broadcaster slain in Malabon

From page A1

was a lookout while the two others—a man and a woman—were on a motorcycle.

Police said the group searched Serrano's home for hours. "When the gunman saw the opportunity, he stopped behind the victim, and quickly fired his gun," Garaffo said.

2 witnesses

The assailant casually walked away and later flagged down a jeepney to escape while the two on a motorcycle followed.

"At least two witnesses saw the faces of the gunmen and the others in Dyan-radio, we will release the sketches of the suspects," Garaffo said.

A group named Special Task force Serrano was formed by the Northern Police District to investigate the case.

Colleagues shocked

In a phone interview, Ed Sarte, a partner of the victim in the radio program scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to noon, said, "Until now, I still could not believe (Serrano) is dead. I was just looking for this morning screening myself from the show because I had to attend a forum."

It was odd that Serrano did not send him a reply, Sarte said.

He said Serrano was not a hard-hitting broadcaster as it is time at a block that she would be killed because of the job.

Sarte described his justices as anti-spoken, unlike other radio commentators who are nominally-hard-hitting.

Said Sarte, whom we failed to get the side of a government official, she only said on air that her only response to the official's

IN MONTHS AFTER: A member of media lights a candle in remembrance the 16th month anniversary of the Maguindanao massacre in Ridgeview City on Wednesday

MANILA BULLETIN PHOTO

IN THE KNOW

ON JAN. 24, radio commentator Gerry Ortega was shot dead by a lone gunman while he was shopping in a used clothes store in Puerto Princesa City after his daily morning broadcast. He suffered bullet wounds to the head and body.

Ortega, anchor of the Radyo Mo Nationwide (RMN) local affiliate dwRB talk show "Banawag," was the 142nd journalist killed since 1986, and the third journalist to be murdered under the Aquino administration, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said.

On July 3, 2010, Jun Dagnio, former anchor and reporter for Radyo Natin-Kalinga was gunned down in his home in Kalinga province.

A week later, Miguel Belmonte, a reporter of radio dwRb-FM in Koronadal, Cotabato Sur, was shot and wounded by motorcycle-riding men in an ambush. Belmonte died on July 31, after weeks of fighting for his life in a hospital in Digos City.

In June 2010, the Benigno Aquino administration pledged to help their incoming President Aquino to curb media killings.

The Philippines placed third in the 2010 Impunity Index by the Committee to Protect Journalists, which highlights countries where journalists are killed regularly and governments fail to solve the crimes.

The killing of 30 journalists—among 57 people massacred in Maguindanao in November 2009—catapulted the Philippines from ninth to third position in the Impunity Index. They were among 57 people massacred in Maguindanao. The killings were the deadliest single day attack anywhere in the world on journalists.

"The massacre revealed a cruel game that the Philippine authorities had made: a winning combination of two journalist murders," the report continued.

It, however, said that "aside from the Maguindanao massacre, the country's abysmal impunity record showed some signs of turnaround with convictions in the 2006 killing of Armando Doctor and the 2005 murder of Edgar Amoro."

The journalists killed in Maguindanao were among the over 130 Filipinos celebrated in the Journalists Memorial at the Newseum in Washington, dubbed by media practitioners as the "shrine of heroes." – Inquirer Research

Additional reporting: CNN and Inquirer Archives

From page A1

interviews when their bosses were not around was to take note of the public's complaints," Sarte said.

The killing of Serrano, a public service anchor since the early 2000s, could be related to her work as a journalist, Sarte said.

Land dispute

Sarte said Serrano had been tackling in her radio program a land dispute in her neighborhood in Hagdan where she was also the homeowners' association president.

Formerly worked for dyRL and dzAR as a public service anchor before she joined dzMc last December. She leaves behind two children, the youngest, a 6-year-old girl.

Media and rights groups say the Philippines is one of the world's most dangerous places for journalists. They are a climate of impunity prevails the country where powerful figures often act above the law and firearms proliferate.

Most infamously, 31 journalists were among 57 people murdered in the southern Philippines in 2009, allegedly by members of a powerful Muslim clan who wanted to eliminate a rival politician.

On Jan. 24, a gunman shot and killed broadcaster and environmental crusader Gerardo Ortega in a shop in Puerto Princesa City. Several officials were among those charged in the killing believed to be a result of Ortega's exposés on the misuse of Malampaya funds. He was the third journalist killed under the Aquino administration. *With reports from Tina G. Santos and AFP*

Chinese diplomats: Executions should not strain PH-Sino ties

By Norman Bordadora

CHINESE Ambassador Liu Jianchao asked for understanding from the Philippines regarding the March 30 execution of the three "criminals."

"This is something that has to be done in accordance with Chinese law. So we hope to have the understanding of the Philippine public and also the Philippine government," Liu said in an interview with reporters in Taguig City.

"And I want to reiterate that the Chinese people have a very friendly approach toward our Filipino friends. The case itself is very unfortunate, which has to happen in accordance with the law, but I don't want it to be affecting our bilateral relations, which is going in for us in the interest of our two countries," he said.

Liu said the Chinese government would "do everything that (it) can" to allow the convicts and their families to spend time together before the executions.

"And we hope that everything will be smoothed out in the end," he said. "We are very keen to develop the friendship and good relations between our two countries."

Continuing dialogue

Liu said the Chinese government had tried its best to grant the Philippines' requests in connection with the three convicts.

He said he had met to receive the communication from the Vice President in connection with the March 30 executions.

"I haven't gotten the letter yet. But I know that the VP and the President himself, and the Philippine government have been working very hard to conveying the message and concern of the Philippine side about the verdict of the three criminals who trafficked drugs in China," Liu said.

"We worked very hard on this, to inform the limit of the Chinese law, we tried our best to accommodate. And you know the fees has been set for [execution of the] Filipinos," he said.

Liu indicated that a prisoner swap agreement remained the subject of discussion between the two countries.

"I think there have been some initiatives from the Philippine side, but this is a complicated issue because we have ... differences in our legal systems," Liu said.

"But we have to continue the dialogue and also our efforts in finding the possibilities of having a treaty based on mutual benefit. While we are very open to such an initiative, we would like to have consultations with the Philippine government," he said.

Friendly relations

Nihat Ilter, deputy chief of the political section and spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy, said his government hoped that the impending executions would not strain diplomatic ties.

"China has always been committed to developing friendly relations with the Philippines. That position remains and will always be unchanged," Ilter told the reporters.

China has executed drug traffickers from, among other countries, Britain, Malaysia and Japan. In these cases, the Chinese government did not heed public appeals for clemency by the foreign governments.

Ramon Gudo, Sally Villanueva and Elizabeth Batara are among 227 Filipinos jailed in China on drug charges. The Department of Foreign Affairs said some 78 of them had been sentenced to death but given two-year reprieves at the end of which their sentences would be automatically commuted to life terms.

Asked if other Filipino drug convicts might be executed within the year, Ilter said he was not in a good position to answer.

He noticed a similar response when asked if China had closed its doors to all Philippine appeals.

'Isolated case'

In an earlier interview, Ilter said he hoped the Philippines and China would cooperate in the future in enacting a system to crack down on drug crimes.

He said bilateral relations were not likely to be adversely affected by the impending executions, which he described as "an isolated criminal case in China, involving our two countries."

China takes a very serious approach toward the death penalty and has in fact enacted a wide range of crimes punishable by death, he said. With a report from Ce'Ge Ilagan

'Don't forget to pray, don't lose hope'

From page A1

were arrested separately in China in 2008 for carrying several kilograms of heroin, and convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to death in 2009.

Batara will be executed in Shenzhen, and Villanueva and Gudo in Xiamen. DFA spokesperson J. Eduardo Malaya announced on Wednesday.

Kin off limits

Malaya reportedly said family members of the three executives would not be allowed to witness their execution.

Villanueva, Gudo and Batara were originally scheduled for execution on Feb. 20 and 21, but a visit to Beijing and appeals for clemency by a high-level Philippine delegation led by Vice President Jejomar Binay moved China to announce a reprieve.

The DFA's announcement on Wednesday had an air of finality to it, but Binay intends to appeal to Chinese authorities.

The Vice President remains hopeful and Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao is seeking understanding.

Binay will send a letter of appeal to Chinese authorities regarding the scheduled executions of the three Filipinos drug trafficking convicts, according to President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"The Vice President believes that while [the executions have] not yet been carried out, there is still hope. He wants to exhaust all possible means," Lacierda said at yesterday's news briefing in Malacañang.

But despite Binay's optimism, Lacierda expressed the Philippine government's acceptance of the three convicts' fate.

"Certainly, we would prefer a more positive outcome, but we're realistic about the situation. We are aware that the agreement last time was only for the postponement of the executions," Lacierda said.

Ordinario said he had filed a request with Chinese authorities to be allowed to claim his daughter's body "in the event that the execution pushes through."

"I hear that in many cases they entertain the bodies of those executed. I hope they will allow us to at least take the body home with us," he said.

How it will be done

Citing Article 212 of the criminal procedure law of China, a visiting DFA official said the executions of the three Filipinos would not be held in public.

The same provision states that the judicial officer directing the execution shall verify the identity of the convict, and then ask him/her if he/she has any last words or letters for family members, and the manner who asked not to be named because of the delicacy of the subject matter.

The judicial officer will then "deliver the criminal to the execution of the death sentence," the source said. With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada

PARENTS IN ANGUISH: Geronimo and Nadina Ordinario talk to reporters about their daughter Sally Ordinario-Villanueva before going to the Department of Foreign Affairs one day after China announced it would push through with the execution of their daughter and two other Filipinos on March 30. At right, Sally's photo is placed as a corner offer sister's home in Freedom Park, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDDIE GARCIA

DOJ clears LTO chief in car theft

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice (DOJ) has cleared Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Virginia Torres and two others of liability in a car theft case filed by the Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group in 2009.

In an 11-page resolution, Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong said the complaint against Torres, Dionisio Tiu and Samuel Fernandez should be "dismissed for prima facie lack of merit."

Instead, Ong recommended that the PNP-HPG further investigate the allegations surrounding the alleged theft and forgery of the Mitsubishi Pajero that is the subject of the case.

He said the authorities should also look into the possible culpability of Jocelino Ilacad of Victoria, Tarlac; Soccsksargen Street, the LTO Route (Isabela) district head as the time; an M.L. Deray and C.J. Pablo, also of LTO Route; Lorenzo Llanillo, LTO Tarlac district head and an R.F. Delos, also of LTO Tarlac; and one Cristina Macaraeg.

The PNP-HPG had accused Torres, Tiu and Fernandez of dishonesty in connection with the registration of the Pajero.

"After careful review and evaluation of the evidence submitted, the undersigned finds no probable cause to indict any of the respondents for the offense charged," Ong said in his resolution.

"Considering that the crime of falsification was committed either on Sept. 19, 1995, or June 7, 1999, when respondent Virginia Torres was neither the director head of the LTO Sosoa district office nor the LTO Tarlac district office, it follows that she could not have participated in the commission of such offense," Ong said.

He said the same held true for Tiu and Fernandez, "whose names came into the picture only on Feb. 28, 2000 and April 6, 2000."

Fernandez was arrested by the PNP-HPG on April 9, 2009, in Baguio City in possession of the blue Pajero which was registered to Jimmy Ng of La Trinidad, Benguet.

It was discovered that the vehicle had been originally registered in the LTO Sosoa office and that its registration was subsequently transferred to the LTO Tarlac office.

Staff gets ready for Ping's return

By TJ Burgonio

HE IS risen.

In what could be a sign that erstwhile fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson will soon be reclaiming and reclaiming his Senate seat, Lacson's staff yesterday yesterday requested Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile to order the reopening of the senator's office.

"I do not know when he will come but there was a request from his staff. So I assume that he's almost ready to come back," Enrile told reporters.

Enrile said he would talk to the Senator to "let the staff reopen" Lacson's office at Room 113, which was closed down in October 2010, many months after the senator went into hiding following a court order for his arrest in connection with the 2000 murders of publicist Bubby Dacer and the senator's driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Lacson's imminent reappearance became certain after the Court of Appeals earlier this week quashed with finality the warrant for his arrest.

A lower court had issued the warrant but before it could be served, Lacson fled the country in January 2010, claiming that he was being persecuted by the Arroyo administration.

Lacson's resumption of his Senate duties is seen as crucial in light of the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez in mid-May.

You are not forgotten, tribal people told

By Tarra Quismundo

THE COUNTRY'S indigenous population is never forgotten in the Aquino administration's agenda, according to Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles.

Deles, whose office exercises oversight powers over the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), told a gathering of tribe organizations and individuals this week that the administration was pursuing a program to protect the welfare of IPs across the country, including the protection of their ancestral domain and the delivery of social services.

"Indigenous peoples are in the inner circle of the President, in his heart," said Deles in her speech at the close of the three-day National Indigenous People's Summit in Quezon City on Wednesday.

Deles said that Mr. Aquino often asked about government's programs for the Lumads, as indigenous tribe in Mindanao, whenever they discussed peace efforts with separatists in the region.

"When he was still running for the presidency, I was asked to work with him on the Mindanao peace policy. He would discuss the affirmative action agenda for Muslims," Deles said. "He always asks why we're only discussing the Muslims, what about the Lumads?"

Drilon-FFCCCII School Building Advocacy enters its 9th year

1,400 classrooms constructed nationwide at 50% of standard government cost.

DPWH Asec. Rey Dimas C. Ingeniero, Exec. Sec. Atty. Jose Sonza, Pres. Julio A. Tan, Partly-lost exec. Vice President Henry Limbaseng, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, Vice Pres. Angel Ngo, Vice Pres. Tan Ching, Pres. Dr. Alfonso R. Uy, Vice Pres. David Chua, Vice Pres. Dominga Yap, Vice Pres. Alfonso Sy, and Vice Pres. Ong Eng Chan.

Students give Drilon a high-five as they settle into their new school buildings.

Today, nine years since the launch of the Drilon-Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. School Building Project, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon's vision has seen the birth of a total of 1,400 classrooms from the years 2002 to 2005, benefiting millions of students all over the Philippines.

Drilon, who allocated a total of P250 million from his priority development assistance fund (PDAF) since the start of the program, has since again contributed a total of P75 million for the construction of three hundred (300) additional classrooms located nationwide upon his assumption as Senator last year.

It is worth noting that the partnership between Drilon and the FFCCCII, which has been going on for nearly a decade, was forged because of the capability of the organization to construct classrooms at **half the cost** of the ones being built by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"It is fact that many of our youth are not able to receive even free education just because we lack classrooms," Drilon said.

"This is precisely why we have been supporting the school-building program of the FFCCCII for nearly a decade now, to build our country's education infrastructure," Drilon, a product of the country's school system, commented.

Standing from left to right: Engr. Elmer Bolon Sy, Cong. Jan Jary Ngo, Hon. Pres. Vicente Yu, Vice Pres. Henry Limbaseng, Vice Pres. Angel Ngo, Vice Pres. Tan Ching, Vice Pres. David Chua, Vice Pres. Alfonso Sy, Vice Pres. Ong Eng Chan. Seated Left To Right: Asst. Sec. Jimmy S. Sagadraca, Hon. Pres. Julio A. Tan, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, Pres. Dr. Alfonso Uy, Exec. Vice Pres. Dominga Yap.

Drilon showing a scale model of the school building.

"We are doing this because we are investing in the future of our youth," Drilon added.

"Drilon's partnership eliminates the opportunities for corruption. For one, FFCCCII has an extensive network of members nationwide who are in the construction business, ensuring lower cost of materials. The federation also does not have to beg for funds because the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Budget and Management ensures the timely release of the funds.

"What better way to use the much-maligned pork barrel funds than to allot it to more useful and tangible things that could benefit generations of our countrymen? The PDAF is there to be used for the needs of the people, and what we need right now is better educational facilities for all," Drilon added.

From March 25-27, 2011, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) will be holding its 28th Biennial Convention in Manila with the theme "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity."

Over 200 delegates representing the Federation's 170 member chambers and trade and industry associations all over the country, together with various leaders from the business community, government officials and the Federation's sectoral groups will be participating in the Convention.

President Benigno S. Aquino III will deliver the keynote address at the opening ceremonies on March 25, 2011. Also invited as guest speakers are Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, Speaker Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr., Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao, Trade Secretary Gregory L. Domingo and Labor Secretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz.

Classrooms completed per region from 2002 – 2005

NCR	4
CAR	21
I	106
II	42
III	148
IV	290
V	132
VI	250
VII	50
VIII	126
IX	25
X	40
XI	48
XII	36
XIII	10
ARMM	8
TOTAL: 1,400 classrooms	

During ground breaking ceremonies of one Drilon-FFCCCII School Building Project

A typical, prefabricated Drilon-FFCCCII school building project

A Drilon-FFCCCII project at half the cost of a DPWH project

Building the country's educational infrastructure.

Partnership for progress and prosperity.

P-Noy likely to reappoint 5 bypassed Cabinet men

PRESIDENT Aquino will likely reappoint the five members of his Cabinet who were bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

"The President has every confidence in the Cabinet officials," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in presday's press briefing in Malacañang.

"He has not voiced any concern. So, in all likelihood, we believe that the President will reappoint the six," he added.

The Cabinet members are Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and National Economic Development Authority director-general Cayetano Paderanga. Aquino fire-dashers

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Forging ahead in Green Technology towards Lead

Hyundai Blue is the New Smart Movement

Blue Drive is Hyundai Motor Company's innovative green ego agenda which will bring to market a range of eco-friendly vehicles to deliver sustainable value to its customers worldwide and extend Hyundai as an environmental leader in the automotive industry.

"We are pursuing two prolonged 'Blue Drive' initiatives, which focus on improving fuel efficiency and the development of alternative fuel vehicles with vastly improved environmental characteristics," stated Mr. Wong Soo Chung, Chairman and CEO of Hyundai Motor Company. "We are also making an environmental effort in the development of alternative fuel vehicles as a fundamental solution for ensuring transport energy security." He added to reinforce Hyundai's various commitments in dramatically reducing carbon emissions and fuel consumption through fossil-fuel-independent powering.

Achieving Cutting Edge Fuel Efficiency

Hyundai's next generation 1.7 eVGT diesel engine technology as well as its latest Gamma GDI direct injection innovations have demonstrated Hyundai's drive to lead in fuel economy innovations by improving the energy efficiency of its power trains that generate fewer CO2 number. And when force to the wheels, thermal recovery loss, and existing renewable energy source to lower carbon dioxide emissions from co-vehicles.

Blue Edition on the Road

Joining the Hyundai Blue Drive range of vehicle offerings is the all-new Hyundai Accent and the upcoming 2012 Hyundai Elantra Avante – an early blend of fuel-efficient capabilities as a result of improved aerodynamics, reduced tread drive resistance, and energy saving alternator management system.

Likewise, these diesel engines are efficient mass-market cars, greatly increased engine efficiency as demonstrated in the 2012 Sonata's 2.0 turbo-petrol variant's transmissions. The 1.7 L turbocharged diesel engine, one of the most powerful petrol engines in its class, which can rapidly deliver high volumes of energy while complying with strict environmental standards.

To reduce energy loss, improvements in aerodynamics have been employed throughout Hyundai's "Fluidic Sculpture" design language in next-generation vehicles offerings that boasts of strong side characteristics, wide streamlined lamps, and a distinctive hexagonal grille, visible in the Hyundai Sonata, Genesis Coupe, and Tucson.

Alternative Fuel Capabilities

The burgeoning petroleum crisis and the growing consciousness for eco-sensitivity have led Hyundai to develop vehicles that run on various biofuels – from petroleum derivatives that help reduce dependence on traditional sources of non-renewable sources of energy such as gasoline, coal, and oil. In the US and Brazil markets, advanced capabilities to flex-fuel vehicles have been developed, enabling Hyundai vehicles to run on mixtures of gasoline blends, mainly ethanol, sales of vehicles with up to E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline) blend will be made available to ensure reliable emissions in the region. In Europe, where diesel cars are popular and EU technical standards set for its clean fuels with a 5% biodiesel blend, Hyundai models have easily found market acceptance. Models for diesel engines can run on fuels with up to 20% biodiesel blends without any concerns during start-up.

In India, Hyundai's advancements in compressed natural gas (CNG) technology have gained headway with a CNG infrastructure well established in the country. Compared to gasoline models, Hyundai's CNG fuel tank CNG cars can have lower carbon dioxide emissions as much as 20% g/km. And so for the market, Hyundai has produced a CNG variant of India's ever-popular small car, the Hyundai Santro.

In the Philippines, HMB made official its compliance with the Philippine government's implementation of the Alternative Fuel Act (commonly known as "Gas-for-Less") program to help generate awareness on the biofuel readiness of Hyundai's automobile line-up. With forward-thinking design philosophies, Hyundai vehicles even surpass mandatory market standards in the Philippines of E10 (a blended fuel of 10% ethanol blend with gasoline & 90% CME. Brand with diesel to provide cleaner ready vehicles for Filipino motorists.

HYUNDAI
NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.

blue drive

blue technology for a green tor

Across the spectrum of green engineering, Hyundai's Blue Drive™ programme collects with the most distinctive ideas.

Blue Drive technologies and innovations represent Hyundai's comprehensive thinking towards sustainable mobility. Taking great strides towards eco-responsibility in all aspects of Hyundai's go high gear to provide cost that are highly fuel efficient with capabilities to run on alternative fuels and even solar or other energy platforms. On the road today are Hyundai cars that run on Blue Drive technologies, giving everyone an opportunity to drive green.

With so many kinds of eco-centric vehicles on the road now and in the future, Hyundai ensures that there will be nothing but blue skies ahead.

HYUNDAI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Drive Innovation

dership in Fuel-Efficiency & Sustainable Mobility

'Blue Drive' Value

Research and development engineers at Hyundai's Global Design Headquarters in South Korea take inspiration from its sleek carriages, with the construction of concept cars such as the i800 or 'i-Wagon' crossover concept automobile that is powered by a 2.0-liter direct-injection turbo turbocharged engine. The sports "Blue-WRC" car with a 4-liter CVVT power-house with a sprint-tuned chassis control, and the space-inspired "i-Metro" which moves forward with a cyclonic dual CVVT engine with the electric double-layer ultracapacitor and a cyclonetary. All three designs are just some of the concepts vehicles now being used as templates for the new quality, design, and performance of Hyundai's next generation innovations, from engines which is hybrid, and fuel-efficient engines.

But the road to continuous innovation that truly promises to be the future's possible means is the pursuit for fuel efficient platforms and even emission to the production of its cars and drivetrain polymer batteries. In this technological innovation has the cornerstone of Hyundai's eco plan which will definitely change the way people around the world perceive motoring.

The Sonata Hybrid

By the end of 2010, Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) will be releasing its Sonata Hybrid in the North American market as well as domestic market. Coupled with Hyundai's Blue Drive system and proprietary transmission and hybrid technology, the Sonata Hybrid will be able to operate on an electric motor, gasoline internal combustion engine, and a combination of the two depending on road conditions and driver demands. This full parallel architecture of Hyundai, which weighs less, is much smaller and more efficient than the conventional hybrid battery technologies offered by most competitors today, proves to have significant efficiency advantages of hybrid engines.

"Automakers in the automotive industry, Hyundai Motor Company and KIA are committed to creating a global clean car and future together towards a brighter and prosperous future," stated Mr. Tu Pong-Aguas, President and CEO of HMC. "Hyundai is confident up to the challenging world's fuel crisis. We all, our lives, our nations, will not find peace at stake. The Blue Drive will be Hyundai answer to the global call for survival for sustainability," added Mr. Pong-Aguas.

With its lineup of eco-friendly, fuel efficient cars with system towards "Blue" manufacturing and quality services, Hyundai has now become the clear choice and key for our current concerns, needed and full of the coming generation. And as it continues to participate in pursuit of clean environmental leadership through its Blue Drive initiative, it now pushes forward for new possibilities to maximize on the synergy between cars, and the potential of the sun and oceans, together without sacrificing state-of-the-art technology or performance.

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Senate can-do

EDITORIAL

NOW THAT the articles of impeachment against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez have been submitted to the secretary of the Senate, all eyes are on the senators who will sit in judgment. Unless the political allies of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo prevail on Gutierrez to resign ahead of the impeachment trial, to protect the former president's own legal prospects in the future, the Senate will convene as an impeachment court for only the second time in our history on May 9.

To the historical significance of the proceeding, we can add political meaning: A year ago, on May 10, also the second Monday of May, the Filipino electorate voted overwhelmingly against Arroyo's legacy. While only a little over two-fifths of voters cast their vote for Benigno Aquino III, anywhere between three-fourths and nine-tenths of the electorate (depending on how the votes are read) voted not only against Arroyo's candidates but against the perceived corruption that marked her administration. The symmetry seems especially striking a year after a new governing coalition was elected to office as an anti-corruption platform, it began to most painful battle against corruption.

The case against Gutierrez can be summed up in those very terms: The principal official charged by the Constitution with the task of prosecuting corruption cases with the Sandiganbayan is accused of blunking, or almost seriously delaying, or even bargaining away, prosecution. Unfortunately for Arroyo, five of the six charges concern scandalous irregularities that took place under her administration or in at least two of them, even with her blessing.

The impeachment process only seeks to remove Gutierrez from office. But while there are six articles of impeachment, the prosecutors from the House of Representatives need to prove the case against Gutierrez in only one, for the senator-judges to convict her.

In other words, Gutierrez needs to be found guilty of only one of the six articles—and she becomes the first impeachable official to be formally removed from office.

This basic arithmetic of conviction suggests a way of proceeding for the Senate that meets the highest standards of justice and fairness and at the same time recognizes the many other demands on the Senate's time. The Senate has moved expeditiously on the matter, laying out the trial schedule as early as last week, and approving its rules on impeachment the other night. The Senate has prepared a thrice-a-week schedule for the trial, three afternoons every week beginning May 9, reserving the mornings for legislative work. The rules are both disciplined (learning its lessons from the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, the chamber has enjoined its members not to discuss the merits of the case during the trial) and generous (media coverage is allowed, use of online social media is not banned).

Our proposal follows those same principles: Instead of having the House prosecutors present their case in all six articles, before the Senate votes to acquit or to convict, perhaps the Senate can amend its impeachment rules when it resumes session on May 9 and adopt a new process: Let the House lawyers prosecute the six charges one at a time, and then the Senate will vote to acquit or to convict after each one.

That is to say, after the House prosecutors complete presenting the evidence and arguing the case for the first article of impeachment, then the senator-judges will meet to rule on it. If the votes add up to conviction, then there is no longer any need to continue with the impeach ment trial; Gutierrez is effectively removed from office.

If the first article fails to secure an acquittal, then the House prosecutors move on to the second, after which the Senate meets and votes again, and so on down the line.

The advantage here is that an early conviction will bring the trial to an early end; while acquittals in the first articles will only mean that the trial will proceed according to the original plan. Gutierrez's rights are safeguarded, while the urgency of legislative work is recognized and accommodated.

Since the conduct of the impeachment trial is entirely dependent on the Senate's sense of what it can and cannot do, the senator-judges may wish to consider this proposal.

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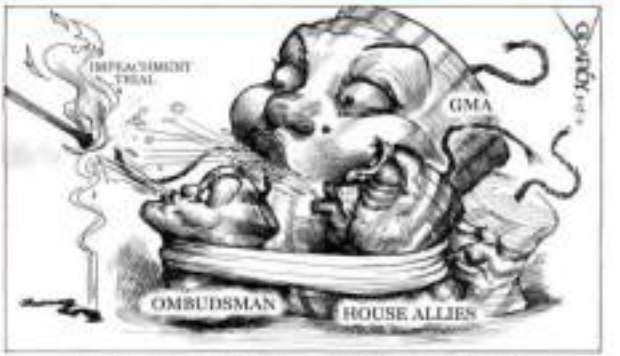


Miscarriage of justice in SC and NLRC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A MISCARRIAGE of justice is more galling and painful if it is done by the Supreme Court, the highest court of the land, the court of last resort. There is no more higher court to run to for the injured party to be corrected.

Look at the case against petitioner Isidro Cadalzan Institute of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) who these seven years is praised for doing his job. He issued a writ of execution to implement a final and executory order of the Supreme Court itself in favor of a union illegally dismissed by his employer Pan Asia, the employer is sued him for graft. Satrea did not send it to jail contrary, yet he was convicted by the Sandiganbayan of graft. By issuing the writ of execution, the sandiganbayan alleged that he, Satrea, gave undue advantage to the complainant union. The truth is, it was the employer who had the advantage: he never paid the back wages and other benefits for the Court ordered him to pay.

The story is a simple, unsophisticated Captain Tita dismissed names Abraham Moses who filed a case for illegal dismissal with the NLRC. The arbiter who handled the case, Andrea Palmiotti, declared his dismissal illegal on July 10, 1981 and ordered his reinstatement and the payment by the losing owner of back wages retroactive two years. The NLRC affirmed the decision. The employer filed no appeal so all the way to the high court. The original affirmed the decision. When the decision became final and executory, it was sent back to the office for execution.

By that time, Isidro C. Satrea, a veteran of 20 years of public service, had replaced Palmiotti as arbiter. He issued a writ of execution for Palmiotti's decision. The board owner sued him for violation of the anti-graft law, saying he is liked the writ of execution despite a restraining order by the NLRC.

But the writ of execution was issued before the TRO. The writ was issued on June 11, 1993, while the NLRC restraining order was issued on June 20, 1993. The Court said Satrea should have known that a TRO was about to be issued, yet he issued the writ of execution. And that supposedly gave the union undue advantage over his employer.

How could Satrea have known? Did any communication call him to say that a TRO was about to be issued? Did any communication tell him about other instances in which the Court had restrained, if not, in an arbiter could withdraw the signed restraining order? To refuse him as a valid cause of professional relationship in the public service is to say that personal dealings between a superior and a subordinate public official are normally acceptable legal procedures.

The truth of the matter is that after learning of the issuance of the TRO, Satrea dropped the implementation of the writ of execution.

Justice did not endure the anti-graft law by giving undue advantage to the dismissed union, resulting in alleged injury to his employer. Yet the Court convicted him of violating the statute. Yet.

The arbiter filed a motion for reconsideration, pleading for the justices to look at the documentary evidence, but the justices (?) declined that a second motion for reconsideration was prohibited and that the documentary evidence of the facts in the case should no longer be raised at this point and that the same was an afterthought. In short, the justices, instead of looking at the facts, condemned the hard-working arbiter on a technicality.

It's one of the principles of justice repeatedly enunciated by the Court is that it is a conflict between the letter and the substance of the law, the latter should prevail, and between a technicality and the spirit of the law, the latter should have priority.

But the Court, rather than quoting deeply interested in the portion of truth to dispense justice fairly, relied on technicalities in the case of Satrea. This is the same Court that made possible three motions for reconsiderations, even after so many of judgment, in certain cases like the land case of Banyan vs. Marcos. This is the same Court that ordered some cases reinstated to the Court of Appeals for the reception of evidence.

What persuaded the justices to do this? Lawyers from former members of the Court, solicitors of personal persuasion. Such seems to be the case when a motion for reconsideration of a decision that has been in the public service for 25 years like Satrea.

To make matters worse, although Satrea's case is still pending with the Court, an angry Ali JC Chairman of the Sandiganbayan summarily dismissed him from the service, stopped the payment of his salary, and ordered the non-implementation of lower decisions in other cases.

Accompanied by 90 JC 3908 executive labor affairs Sabina Pineda, Satrea presented evidence in support of his motion but the Court ruled against him by 7 to 6 with presiding over the Court, and then the Sandiganbayan, in deference to the Court, had not issued a warrant for Satrea's arrest and had kept the hearing on the matter to May 2. Satrea's lawyers maintained that the Court should not resume its Sandiganbayan motion with the Court.

Hopefully just to mind to all that we still do.

What is Hopefully doing due to Satrea? Maybe the following will give us a clue:

It is true that a reinstatement of the NLRC and some lawyers with cases on appeal were dropped in an act Satrea out of the service and had per pressure on the chairman?

Will Hopefully now forgo that Satrea is not the only victim of injustice here. The labor victim is the illegally dismissed worker, Abraham Moses. The injustice done to him has not been set right in spite of a final and executory order of the Court ordering the payment of back wages and other benefits to him.

Libya and knee-jerk anti-Americanism

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

ON TUESDAY this week, militant Filipino youth burned the American flag in Manila to protest "U.S. intervention" in Libya. They are doubly mistaken. Legally, the air strikes against Muammar Gaddafi's forces are done not unilaterally by the American (nor, incidentally by its usual bestest friends). Factually, they should remember Philippine history. In December 1989, our fledgling democracy under Cory Aquino was saved from a military coup by American fighter jets, and 17 years later, of our overseas Filipino workers saving, "American troops stained." The trouble with Pinoy political correctness today is we are stupidly but hypocritical as well.

Your the UN Security Council taken similar action in our own time. Soon after invading Kuwait in 1990, Saddam Hussein's troops overran the U.S. embassy there. Result: he commands no less than 15 UN resolutions, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and summary executions ... Considering that the widespread and systematic attacks currently taking place in [Libya] against the civilian population may amount to crimes against humanity ..."

Now read further with an eye on our words, or in Libya: "Bestowing [the UN's] concern at the plight of refugees and foreign workers forced to flee [the Saddam] fearful for the safety of foreign nationals and their rights ..." Now why would any Filipino oppose such rationale for UN enforcement action? Isn't that precisely what are desperately want for our OFWs—whether a country's flag flown at Ayala's or not? Didn't it help the UN's insistence in many of our OFWs might not have been displaced and would still be running hard overseas today.

The happiness of the US as global policeman is understandable. Invariably, when the Security Council's Chapter VII powers were designed specifically to check the all too familiar abuses of the unilateralists. In other words, the power is internationally constrained and not just bestial unilateral.

For decades, the UN Security Council has legitimacy to the elder George Bush's "Operation Desert Storm" but not in 2003 when it was the turn of the younger Bush to invade. For the Libyan operations, the joint air strikes have received France, the United Kingdom and Arab nations like Qatar.

The UN enforcement action is also additional. It imposes an arms embargo and freezes all financial and economic assets "owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Libyan authorities." It leaves enough room for UN members to use "necessary action" to protect civilians, including "foreign workers." It does not provide for occupation forces on the ground, for sure, but merely creates a no-fly zone to prevent Libyan civilians from air attack by Gaddafi's regime.

This was exactly the sort of protection first as Philippine democracy by US fighter jets during the coup attempt of December 1989. It is all fully documented by the Davide Commission which was formed to investigate the coup. From early morning on Dec. 1 until the morning of Dec. 2, it was a battle of air strikes between the rebels and Cory loyalists, each side deploying Sea Sorts, Gloriahs, F-5s, flying sorties at one another, dropping bombs over civilian areas like Palm Plains, Ayalaland and cities, smashing Aguinaldo and the military camps. The US fighter planes conducted sweeps or "persuasion flights," training rebel troops but not firing or discharging any of their powers.

This would be confirmed by then US Vice President Dan Quayle, in his book "Standing Firm: A Vice-Presidential Memoir," said it with no US regrets. The persuasion flights even had a name: "Operation Classic Resolve," it was carried out from two aircraft carriers stationed off Philippine waters, the Enterprise and the Midway, and Clark Air Base. US President George H.W. Bush ordered two F-4 fighter jets "to buzz the rebel planes at their base, fire in front of them if any attempted to take off, and move them down if they did."

Quayle wasn't that tacitly what the international body wants us to do, whom all along? That those alarmed US military hopes would be used as justifies to domestic matters to be decided by Filipinos among themselves, like, say, what form of government we want? As did any of those US fighter jets ever fire a shot, or even I'd really like to hear from them. I'd like to know if they would have preferred military rule as long as it was "a government run like hell by Filipinos."

The ultimate irony here is that the "Flight of the Phantoms seemed no real value." The Davide Report says they didn't "destroy rebels or access nor were they instrumental in keeping the rebel planes on the ground." Alas, the help came to our later, after "Code 47" bomb had started to rain down on the Palace grounds. Finally, by no "political value [was] questionable" since it showed "overdependence on a foreign power." In addition, the Davide Report curtly observed that it was the Cory regime's powerful, who lobbied Aquino's support, as it was, technically, not intervention.

When it comes to humanitarian intervention, I would rather not look a gift horse in the mouth. Our land area has been bombed numerous times with Nicaragua's Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, Cuban Leon Vidal, Castro, and the Nationalist Shehaad Hajji Charon—not exactly democracy's greatest lovers,—in offending football. The 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia stopped the atrocities against Kosovar Albanians. The bombing was also authorized by the UN. It required nary a fig leaf of legitimacy—not for the two-to-one life and effective human dignity. Maybe that should be enough.

Blood thirsty

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE BLOOD thirster juggernaut of the Aquino administration does bulldozed the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to the Senate does not know where to stop. Apparently intoxicated by the crushing 212-46 vote in the House of Representatives to impeach Gutierrez, the administration stepped up its offensive to manipulate the Senate into converting her on charges of "betrayal of public trust" in the run up to the end of the case.

Leading the charge to whip up public opinion behind the House's decision, President Aquino did not let her grass fly on his feet, when in a speech in Cagayan de Oro he called on the people to support his call for the impeachment and removal of Gutierrez.

The speech appeared to be a blatant attempt by the President to put pressure on the Senate, an independent legislative body, as it prepares to try the case. He said his administration was serious in eliminating corruption in government institutions, a step that included supporting the right people who will prosecute those who do such things."

"This is why we called for the impeachment of the ombudsman," Mr. Aquino said. "We cannot have drunk such as DTI, Mega Pacific, Hale 2 hold back the economy any longer. The impeachment of the ombudsman is an important signal we can send to you right now that we are trying to put in place the kind of playing field for your businesses to survive and prosper in the long term. As the Senate prepares to try the ombudsman, I urge you to support this initiative and express your opinion."

In justifying his intervention in the affairs of the Senate, the President told reporters, "I may be President but I am also a citizen of this republic, he is entitled to that republic. I am just happy and in the performance of the ombudsman and her people."

Mr. Aquino insisted that the Senate, with its independence and co-equal body, he said he was a "citizen expressing my own opinion and I think I am entitled to one opinion."

Statements such as these reveal dangerous

Blood thirsty

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

views of the president on the important principle of separation of powers among the three departments of government and over the importance of the rule of law in the pursuit of fair administration of justice, even in impeachment trials. That, as a citizen he has a right to express his opinions, but he is not acting on an even playing field with the constituted officers. As President, he is the most powerful official of the land, he has command of state which he can deploy to realize his opinion prevail, when he says carries enormous weight to influence decisions in other departments. And he is bound by his oath of office to be fair to the land, which by implication, requires him to respect the powers of a coequal branch in the impeachment trial.

Having reduced the House into a rubber stamp in his crushing the wishes of impeachment after just eight hours of debate in the plenary, the administration has now turned its big guns on the upper chamber. The administration leaders has told the ombudsman and it is now trying to bully the Senate. If the administration is promising a bloody battle over the impeachment, it is just possible that the Senate will oblige it.

The day after the House voted to impeach Gutierrez, Solicitor Gen. Paul Hagan Jr., chair of the committee of prosecutors of the impeachment committee, went to the Senate by the date of the vote that he said the "overwhelming" 212 votes to impeach was a "strong message" to the Senate about the people's desire to remove her from office. This will have "a positive effect when we go on trial in the Senate," he predicted. Let's wait and see.

Egos and the vote was a victory for people who supported the President's campaign against corruption, and who saw Gutierrez as a stumbling block. Rumi Mina Rep. Teddy Casiño, a party list ally of the president described Reyes said, "Boy! Ibo ombudsman] cannot believe this. It's okay if it's 180 plus, but it's 212 votes and it dispels all stories about the strength and the support it has from the people."

Even Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima, who is supposed to be a more circumspect Cabinet member, has given credence to the view that House, was carried away by the utmost administration strategy of impeaching the ombudsman—i.e., that public opinion is the key to influencing the forces in the trial. She said public opinion against the ombudsman was so strong that it "pressured the forces of the prosecution to do it too." Public opinion was definitely in favor of the House."

The Senate is an entirely different arena from the House. What the House is mandated to do is to determine whether there is a "probable cause" to impeach the ombudsman for "betrayal of public trust," based on the acts counts of the consolidated two complaints cited in the articles of impeachment.

This having been done, the House prosecution panel is burdened with making a case with the Senate to convict the ombudsman. An impeachment trial is a forum where accusers sitting as judges are required to submit evidence to more rigorous scrutiny as demonstrated in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Historically the Philippine Senate has been a more difficult institution to dominate than the House, which has been vulnerable to executive manipulation and subordination. The distribution of seats in the Senate makes it difficult to produce majorities and subordination. What's more likely are shifting alignments during the trial.

The Senate is on the spot to maintain its independence against the assault of the Aquino juggernaut. Will there be blood in the end?

Tasting Laoag

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LAOAG— My husband and I are in this city upon the invitation of the Divine Word College of Laoag (DWCL) to serve as resource persons in a campus journalism workshop. We rise days, are treated and held workshops on news, feature writing and layout and photography and, almost till merging and being mistaken for one of college's student newspapers: the Willamette for college students (DWCL used to be known as St. Williams College), Middle School (high school) and Junior Williams (elementary school), and the Women's Hour, the high school paper of nearby Holy Spirit High School.

DWCL is somewhat of a unit with us, the primary reason being that the president for the last five years has been my brother, Fr. Rolly Jimenez, SVD. And so when he learned of the book tour, the workshop and a founding opportunity, we just said: Fr. Rolly has told the other members of the DWCL SVD fathers, most especially Fr. Dominy Lasus, SVD, who is the rector/administrative head, who has become a family friend.

And what less family bonding session without the opportunity to break bread and share laughter, memories and stories over good food? So up to the last we served as a re-introduction to Ilocano cuisine, as we sought out dining places both familiar and new to satisfy the level of cooking in this region.

One place I remembered from a previous stay was La Preciosa, which I realized was housed in a charming old-style manor furnished with vintage mahogany.

The shares and the scene of homespun comfort when we stopped by for dinner were as I remembered, and so, I was relieved to find out, was the food. A "famous" dish among visitors to these parts is pakupet, which sounds rather innocuously enough as pork cooked in vinegar and spices, but which all of which suggests combined with human egg, and is a wonderful accompaniment to steamed rice.

***

BUT HERE is how hungry, the entire volume Encyclopedia of the Empire before hand, which came with a side dish of "KBL"—kare-kare (ox tail stew), bagoong (a strongly flavored fish paste), and bicol (vegetables). In other all that meat

Tasting Laoag

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

said, Fr. Dominy ordered his favorite bouillabaisse which came with a creamy broth, mashed bare-bare, and the Ilocano vegetarian dish, pinakbet, a humble preparation which was evoked in bagoong but which is rather difficult to replicate in the authentic manner. Your Ilocano pinakbet must only young vegetables, and the ingredient of La Preciosa was just that, so evoked by the very round bulb of young eggplant.

So if this adventure wasn't filling enough, we had to have dessert, too. And La Preciosa didn't disappoint in this regard, either. Their leche flan was rich and creamy—delicious if not perfect, and we had a grand time dipping into slices of their sweet cake (said to be their most popular dessert), sans chili and tinsuwas as we lingered over coffee.

What a paradise it is for eating you can count on quality food even in humble places, and this sensation you remember fondly still, before when you do find the chance to return for a visit.

***

Till next day, it was our turn to exactly. Bahay to dinner and he suggested a place he had been hearing of but which he never got around to visiting.

And so it was with a spirit of adventure and discovery that we headed for Nenang's, the house's own meaning roughly "appetizer," which serves what could be called the menu for "dinner, as the owners of Ilocanandi prefer to spell it nowadays.

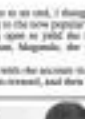
***

My brother was most curious about Ilocanandi's Ilocano version, which still sounding like an "pink pink pinto," "inkalden pinas" and even "Ilocanized pasta." The first one are the famous vegetable dish

Myths

AS MARCH, Women's Month, comes to an end, I thought I should start my column by referring to the new popular Filipino legend of a heroine spinning spun so pulid the fine man, Malakas, and the first woman, Maganda, the new emerging multi-sexuality.

This legend has been welcomed with the answer to the Bible, where Adam, the male, is first created, and then five helpers, almost as an afterthought.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

created out of rate of Adam's rib. This folklore has been used to relieve poor's sexual roles while our wars mistakes and disparity we-sexual stories in the egalitarian vision of the sexes.

In folkloric studies we call such legends "origin myths," such cultures having its own stories to ask about the first humans but also of the universe. Origin myths are rendered because they allow us glimpses into cultural values and how the stories themselves are used to reinforce the values.

Myths also tell us about what's important in a particular society. Agricultural societies, for example, will have many origin myth to account for rain, clouds, river, rice, etc.

It is also the reason why we have so many explanations of how we got the sexes. When God called the peoples of the world to come to get their names, we woke up late and left behind the Kano and Spaniards who ended up with sharp (and presumably sweet) names. But only that, in the myth we got their noses from rushed up trampling some more that had fallen to the ground. Because we were so lazy and woke of late, we had to make do with those manipulated, flattened noses.

Myth-making

Anthropologists are also interested in the myth-making process to interpret deep speak of social dynamics. The folk tales about our noses were obviously created after contact with Spain and the United States, and show how notions of American superiority and our own inferiority have invaded our aesthetic sense.

Myth-making continues to this day, even in the most sophisticated cities of the world. We call these urban legends, many propagated through modern technologies such as the cell phone and the Internet and reflecting modern society's many anxieties. For example, the stories in women's elevating rooms speak of the insecurities and vulnerabilities women feel in a car and in public restrooms.

Let's get back now to Malakas and Maganda. I watched high and low and could not find folk tales using these names. The oldest local published account of an origin myth for men and women dates back to Miguel Lucero's "Narrative de las Islas Filipinas," published in 1582. The origin myth from Panay describes a man eager for sex and sex because man (and women bringing forth a root, which is planted by the good Captain. The root eventually breaks into two, producing the first man, Malakas and the first woman, Maganda, their names said to be the origin of "Lalake" and "Babae."

There are other folk tales about the origins of humans in the accounts of the Spaniards from the 16th and 17th centuries, but nowhere could I find Malakas and Maganda. It seems these two names came around only during the Marcos era, a modernized and sophisticated version probably calling to mind the Malakas and Maganda Hotels. I have not personally been to these venues, but it looks like he and Imelda did find the story appealing, given that the couple ended up represented as Malakas and Maganda in a self-laudatory mural.

Sexual evolution

The evolution of Malakas and Maganda closer as another aspect of myth-making. Marcos was looking for ways to create a "New Society" culture that could go in tandem as well as folklore. A relatively young leader like any out-of-sex looks to the past for evidence of human golden eras.

Many Filipinos in the mid-to-late 20th century, those about 50 dates from Marcos fleeing a crisis and moving down to Pasay in the 15th century, which they bought for a golden solution from the Asian who were already living there. The leader of the datus was heralded and they married the daughter of the Muslim ruler of Manila. Many also learned, even from university textbooks, about another hero, Sulaiman, who supposedly lived in the 15th century and promulgated an elaborate legal code governing punishments for various crimes.

The history behind this legend is complicated, and will be one of the topics to be discussed during this year's summer training at the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The theme of the training deals with modern myth-making: "Going Back to Basics: Understanding Myths and Mythmaking in the Philippines." Behind the theme is a kind of mess steps to make up for the many fallacies propagated (and to some measure, created) by social scientists.

History professors Bernadette Abrera and Ned Sandilan will tackle myths like Sulaiman and Sandilan's. From anthropology, professors Jonathan Casino and Carlos Tayo will tackle issues of race and the very imposition (hence the idea that our islands were first populated by Negritos, followed by Indonesians, then Malay). Other speakers will be professors from psychology (James Servidad and Ma. Theresa Bautista), sociology (Anna Trinidad), geography (Pepe Diokno), political science (Ramon Casiple), political science (Chito Gascon and Antoni Tupaz-Rae), demography (Josefina Cabigon) and philosophy (Helena Mendoza), each tackling the more common myths that congregate in their fields.

The methodology is not intended to find fault with earlier social scientists, many of whom participated in myth-making inadvertently. They were often limited by the information that was available during their time. Others were bedded by our anxious pedaling false "evidence" (for example, "historical" documents), or by "experts" information coming from the Church or the government.

I am hoping the UP training session will also process or scenarios to examine the fallacies. For example, instead of discussing the foundation Code of Sulaiman, teachers should be exploring via the many archaeological and anthropological finds that do speak of rich and vibrant precolonial cultures of which one can be truly proud.

Folklore, too, should definitely be discussed in classrooms and classes, to help students appreciate why we create myths and why, sometimes, we need to challenge them as well. I am preparing the opening paper for this workshop and will be sharing some samples of such folk tales, and their class them in a future column.

The summer workshop is from April 12 to 21, 2011 and will be held at UP Diliman. The workshop is sponsored by the Commission on Higher Education, which means you can use your GSIS study loan to pay for tuition if you are from a government educational institution. Private school teachers are of course welcome. Those interested in the seminar can call Ms. Monica Castro at 981-8500 local 2436 or through ml@ssc@020.981-8500.

Where 'susu' means milk

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MY BOSTON when I serve in my foreign course is to store my luggage in the hotel. Yes and hotel for a nearby supermarket or grocery to buy the local products. Not only "local" wares but, and assorted charities. From toilet paper to shoe, I know that a basic or survival vocabulary can be built quickly by reading grocery labels. By memorizing one object I learn two words: I learn the name, I can navigate a prominent menu later. For example, chicken is *ayam* in Bahasa, fish is *ikan*, beef is *sapi*, etc.

Many languages share the same thought, combining two words, adding the word for prawn, although I am going we call large-headed salt shell shrimp along). Mangga for bunga manalo almost like manila. Tabu is *tabung*.

In dialogue Bahasa is friendly. I went to the dairy products section and was disheartened to find the milk in a box. I took pictures of different cartons, a white carton of full cream milk, skim milk, chocolate milk, soy milk, even the famous Bimoa. One had the Bahasa word *susu*.

So I climbed away. I noticed for the first time that the polar bear in Bear Brand is feeding her cub with a baby bottle! Maybe it's a papa bear, either sense why in the cute being filled with cow's milk from a can? Shouldn't mama bear be breast feeding her cub?

Just to thought, I walked cautiously and stopped in front of a glass case with a delicious display of Indonesian cuisine: milk cakes called *putih*. This reminded me of the Filipino delicacy *puto*, and *putih* and *susu* sound like an uncle called *putik*. The two milk also reminded me that if you translate "it takes a long time to cut hair" into Bahasa, it is translated as "*Berjalang ke rambut*."

Making things in the grocery made me realize that many words in Indonesia are the same as ours (*pasang* (cathedral), *gunung* (volcano), *mata* (eye), *hidung* (nose), *mulut* (mouth), *lidah* (tongue), *bau* (pig), *ayam* (a hen), *sapi* (cow), *kambing* (goat), *kuda* (horse), and *sabun* (soap). The names of some fruits are quite as translation: *pepaya*, *mangga*, *durian*, *belimbing* and *sangka*. My friends assured me that if I stayed here a few months, I would be speaking Bahasa/Indonesian like a native.

Unlike Hindi, words in Bahasa are pronounced as written. Another item we have complicated rules of grammar and conjugation, leading to wrong sentences—this does sound like those signs we see on the road every day in the Philippines, for example, *Bawal umihi dito* (Tagalog) or *Bawal mag-ihi dito* (Bisaya). Here in Bahasa you say *Dilarang kencing disini*. Any Filipino who wants to learn Bahasa does not start from scratch or zero knowledge because many words are the same in both languages.

Philippine languages are not so much in the similarities with English or even Bahasa but also many words we're similar to Kapampangan. Bata is *batang* in Tagalog and kids in both Bahasa and Kapampangan. I learned that rice is *beras* in Tagalog but *nasi* in both Bahasa and Kapampangan. Many words are almost the same like *manuk* (to eat) and *manger* or the same as in minum (to drink). As a story I was told about indonesians mistaking the Filipino word *kanin* (rice) for *kanan* and *kaliwa* (left) for *kanan* (right) and thus *kaliwete* (one who is a leftie) came from a phrase called *kanan ka*.

A few days later, while going through the aisles, I was surprised to find *kanin* in Bahasa. I was sure I recognized, *kaliwete* is more water are called *minuman*, which are suppose to be. Bahasa were meaningful, small jars were put in use, rice were cleaned in *tampiling* or *nyiru*. Large utensil or ladles were struggle to be stirred and spatula or *sodet*.

In our rooms are examined interior porcelains were mugs showing the pre-historic maritime trade routes of the 8th to the 15th centuries, which started from the south of China down to the Philippines and Indonesia and then back. This exchange of people and goods populated the world's trade routes which linked Arabs and the medieval mariners or artifacts around islands as far from China to parts of the Philippines and Indonesia, including ceramics found in the Philippines and Indonesia at Indrapur back to Guangdong and Fujian.

It is fascinating to know that before the Chinese came to trade directly in the Philippines, Arab and Indian traders came to our islands to trade spices as early as the 7th century. And what about the Indonesian seafarers who brought goods and language to our shores even earlier?

My problem with Bahasa though are value terms. I also found out that there are the same but have different meanings. *Suka* in Filipino means the end of a line, but in Bahasa it is the beginning of the line, according to of the biblical passage "Let the dead bury their dead, but you follow me." Those who have left will be first, and he who goes first will be last." When I saw the word *pinggir* on a dress I promised it was *pansit*, but when the host came I was surprised to find *bihi* woman, which are known in the Philippines as *pro-*. Even more confusing when I was told to be *bijaksana* (wise) of getting into wrong means—settings instead of *pinggan*, drawing it as noun and bowing much is polite. We thanks terrible, as in *terima kasih*.

There continue to use our ideas but "comfortable" strangers. These daily (mis)adventures in language made my way to Jakarta very enjoyable. They made me realize that if we look way back in history to a time before the Western powers divided Insular Southeast Asia into different colonies in the 19th century, there are many things we have in common, many similarities in language and culture with our neighbors that we have since forgotten.

Comments are welcome to my Facebook Ambeth Ocampo

Fukushima power plant puts BNPP dream to rest

A SCREEN, some was caught by the tsunami's tidewall. "Blame everything about the disaster on the quake in northern Japan and the monstrous tsunami that followed it, to who was righteous in sharing, the size of its impact, scale of destruction, perhaps, above all is speed. Ten-meter waves canopy people, cars, consumer vans, buildings on fire, even ships as far as 10 kilometers inland. (Reuters, 3/14/11)

What was not simply highlighted was the third w'hammy—the damaged nuclear reactors. International press usually reported on nuclear reactors at risk. There have been explosions or fire at four reactors. There is the real danger of a possible meltdown or an...nuclear catastrophic chain reaction could spread fine rice to neighbors.

In the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986, then President Corazon Aquino mothballed the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant—a policy reversed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who invoked the needs of a growing population. We had the occasion to warn the public, especially the Department of Energy, on the folly of the nuclear option. Nuclear energy is neither clean nor cheap. There is no safe storage for the nuclear waste. Still there are available natural sources of clean and renewable energy like solar, wind, waves. (Inquirer, 3/13/11)

We reiterated our opposition to the "nuclearization" of the country aggressively pursued by former Rep. Mark Cojuangco. He emphasized that there had been no shortage of ideas on how to isolate nuclear waste from the biosphere since Nature first split the atom in 1942, turning it under the desert to ashes, injecting it into the seabed, and shooting it into the outer space. But all of these have failed to gain scientific approval up to now. But if the nuclear scientists could generate electricity for 20, 40 years, their radioactive legacy—the nuclear waste—would remain with humanity for "hundreds of thousands of years" to come. (Inquirer, 3/14/11)

It is troubling that Japan, provided World War II scarcely treasure of us from growing population. There, decades later, Japan embarked on a frenzied construction of more than 50 nuclear reactors, again in the name of "progress" and in exploding population. Fifty-five reactors plants in a country situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire! That was simply—we are choosing the cavities but police word...insane!

Nuclear power plant is always a calculated thinking to happen. (A nuclear meltdown is a reality) perhaps as in bad as a meltdown look too much more ominous. Say, is indeed estimate radioactive for decades, up to million years. Beyond disasters control, of course, be prosecutorially sued. But nuclear catastrophes, be out.

Refuse to build nuclear reserves—period!

In the aftermath of the mind-boggling Honshu tragedy, we appeal to the proponents of BNPP's revival. Please you for one-time decision to run. Don't gamble with our lives. Apologize. Refrain from solving our unresolvable problem with "a final solution."

—NELSON B. LOCSIN
retired ambassador,
alcrimsol@kasmail.com

'Metro Ko, Mahal Ko' should start at Edsa

THE MMC flagship program of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for urban renewal and for the transformation of the metropolis (Inquirer, 3/15/11), dubbed as "Metro Ko, Mahal Ko," is a laudable project if properly implemented. I suggest that Edsa be selected the pilot site for this praiseworthy endeavor.

As a major thoroughfare in Metro Manila, Edsa should do well to serve as the model of a love line, gratification, service-line and smooth-traffic route. By instilling unanimous and disciplined along Edsa, local government officials and residents of Metro Manila will most likely do the same in their respective locations.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino should show his mettle and exercise political will as true "Metro Ko, Love Ko" will not end up as another unique super-government project.

—PEDRO SEVILLO JR.,
6747 Sayle St., Makati City

LETTERS

Are police retirees being shortchanged?

WE HAVE made this appeal several times—to past administrations. This may be not the last chance—We said, during SONA—but we are already sad and tired of having to make for a position response.

Our oft-repeated appeal is for the full implementation of Republic Act 6975 (The BJMP Act), as amended by RA 8551 (Police Modernization Law), specifically regarding the pension of police retirees. Our appeal has gone on unsight for so long; we cannot bear any longer the pain and misery. The past administration already failed to give us our due as mandated by the aforementioned laws.

Moreover there is a hike in the salary of policemen in active service, there is supposed to be a corresponding adjustment in our pensions. However, only 20 percent of the mentioned adjustment would be added to our pension; the remaining 80 percent would always be left out. Said this has become a "tradition" faithfully followed by all PNP chiefs and their powerful compradres; thus, the attempt that the police retirees must have accumulated into millions of pesos.

We are afraid that hope that will not happen that the arrears will never ever be paid unless somebody put an end to this "tradition." Never has the 80 percent balance—or even a fraction—of any of previous adjustments, ever been given to us. In other words, it has become the "policy" (KBP) of the PNP leadership to pay only 20 percent of every pension adjustment. When the next adjustment comes, expect again that the 80-percent SOP would be applied again. This practice should be stopped once to end the poor pensioners to their dying times.

We hope President Aquino will understand our plight. Some of us are already old and visibly ailed and are no longer sure with life's hardships. Several of us have already passed away. We pray that our Pensioner will find it in his heart to give what is due to under the law. We also pray that he may live up to the challenge of leading our people to progress and prosperity—as he promised during his campaign—through the right path.

—MELITO M. MAAO, retired police
senior inspector, 77 Baler St.,
Barangay Pasagad, 8918, Quezon City

'Exemplary' use of pork barrel in Aurora?

THE LAPMASTER Assistant and Avid pork hater, Eddie Garuda other names are ornithologist and Cosmopolitan Development Coordinator Project Development Fund (PDF), is indeed much keeping to the unmitigated of the government.

A good example is the use of the pork barrel fund is that of Sen. Lito Lapid. It worked even for members of the Region.

at Trial Court of Baler, Aurora, where the photo of the main can clown alone was taken.

Moreover, transparency has been observed in the use of Senator Lapid's pork barrel.

Malusay ang pork barrel!

—JANET G. OSEDO,
dgbsurian@yahoo.com

Erratum

The editorial of March 24, 2011 wrongly stated that Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella went to the impeachment of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. He did not cast a no vote. As presiding officer of the session, Fuentebella could not in fact vote—unless to make or break a tie. Our apologies for the error.

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CHED FIGURES

Only 1 of 3 college grads qualified

By Tarra Quismundo

AS TRUSHAWS of college students prepare for graduation this summer, how many are really qualified for their chosen professions?

Based on figures, roughly a third.

Data compiled by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) showed that slightly over one-third, or 36.09 percent, of 415,190 college graduates who took professional licensure or board exams in 2009 passed.

The figure represents a decline from 2008, when 38.69 percent of 390,378 examinees passed, across 44 disciplines in education, engineering, nursing, and other science and technology courses.

Low passing rate

The decrease had been observed as the number of examinees had consistently risen over the years, from more than 283,000 in 2004 to almost more than 400,000 in 2009, with 415,190 examinees. Passing the board or licensure exam is a requisite in certain professions.

The passing rate means that over 60 percent of college graduates taking the professional exams fail.

Courses with markedly the lowest—and declining—passing rates are different disciplines in engineering. An electrical engineering had 27.37 percent passers in 2009 from 43.60 percent in 2008, while electronics and communications engineering had 25.17 percent passers in 2009 from 35.02 percent in 2008.

Faltering quality

Naval architecture and marine engineering, a course with one of the lowest number of examinees, also had the lowest number of passers among engineering—only 9 of 48 takers, or 18.75 percent, passed the exam in 2009, down from 31.25 percent the prior year.

Board examinees for nursing—the most in demand tertiary course—have increased tenfold since 2004, but remains stagnant in terms of qualifying rate. Only 40.17 percent of 172,544 takers—the highest of all courses—passed the nursing boards in 2009, lower from the 43.9 percent in 2008.

Recognizing the faltering quality of higher education in the country, CHED is drawing up measures to more strictly enforce standards in both private and public colleges and universities, said Chair Patricia Licuanan in a recent interview.

Licuanan said CHED had initiated a rationalization plan that would streamline the education system due to overcrowding revealed with more than 2,000 institutions.

The plan includes the "unexplanation" of certain schools with common courses offerings into queens, starting with public universities and colleges, and a reclassification of schools into universities, colleges or institutions based on their qualifications.

Lack of vision

"The more professional ones, I guess, would be lack of overall vision, an overall framework and plan. [The system] is quite chaotic and it's like a free market gone wild. Anybody can open a school, offering the same things," Licuanan said of the situation.

Kids' welfare bill clears committee

THE HOUSE committee on the welfare of children has approved a bill seeking to prohibit inordinate methods of disciplining kids.

The Positive Discipline Act of 2011, filed by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy and Tarlac Rep. Susan Yap seeks to institute a comprehensive program that will provide protection for children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and neglect.

News on the measure's approval at committee level came as Unicef released a new global report on "Child disciplinary practices at Home," (http://www.childinfo.org/discipline.html)

Covering low- and middle-income countries, the report states that three out of four children surveyed had experienced some form of violent discipline; about half, some form of physical punishment; and three in four psychological aggression.

Studies suggest that violent discipline has harmful consequences for children as well as the society in which they live, and that even mild forms of physical discipline hinder children's cognitive capacity and increase their proclivity for future violent acts.

Violent psychological discipline, including ridicule, threats and intimidation, has also been shown to have negative behavioral impacts on childhood and beyond.

"Most violence that is inflicted upon children is committed in the home and thus tends to be hidden," said Theresa Kilburn, Unicef senior adviser on child protection.

"The report seeks to bring the extent of violent discipline out in the open and the shadows to promote alternative, nonviolent forms of discipline and participatory forms of child rearing," she said.

The Positive Discipline Act of 2011 is aimed at both assisting parents in fulfilling their parental authority and upholding the rights of children to assistance and protection from violence, abuse and cruelty.

Music for babies, toddlers in 5 sites

MUSICSHOTTS Manila, the pioneer in early childhood music and movement education in the Philippines, has now opened five satellite branches in Metro Manila to allow more babies and toddlers to experience learning through music.

Singer and educator Michelle Nikki Anta, owner of Musikgarten Manila, stressed the need for babies and toddlers to start early in their education. She said babies and toddlers have a natural tendency for learning, and this tendency to learn should be encouraged through fun activities through movement, music listening and singing that improves a child's intelligence and creativity.

"We often say that our education is different from our other Montessori education even after schooling and it should even be encouraged even before a child goes through formal schooling," Anta said in a press statement.

Musikgarten is a leading brand in early childhood education in the United States, the curriculum offered to children, starting from babies to five years of age, is well-researched to provide children an enjoyable and productive learning experience.

The main branch of Musikgarten is at the 2nd floor, Bangko Pinoy Bldg., 162 Edsa cor. Bellavista St., Mandaluyong City. Its four satellite branches are located at: Toddlers Unlimited Makati on the 7th floor of Alpap 1 Building at LP Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; Petron Day Care and Play School on the 6th floor of Ascott Makati, Ebonstone 1, at Ayala Center, Makati City; Power Theatre Arts on the 5th floor of Investment Center at 390 Chino Roces Ave. cor. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City; Wee Minds Learn on the 3rd floor Jumpstarter of Robinsons Galleria East Wing; And The Learning Child School, Inc. at 113 Castillejos St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

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BUY win

Binay walking tall in latest Pulse survey

From page A1

declined but remained high at 74 percent. His previous rating was 79 percent.

Eighty-one percent of respondents nationwide said they trust Binay, up from 78 percent in October 2010.

Fifteen percent said they were undecided on the matter, while 5 percent said they distrusted him.

Binay's approval rating rose to 85 percent from 78 percent.

The noncommissioned survey, conducted from Feb. 26 to March 6, used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult respondents. It had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Grateful

Binay said he was pleased by his high trust and performance ratings and thanked the people for their support.

"I am very grateful for the people's support. This expression of optimism and confidence encourages me to work harder for our people," he said in a brief statement to reporters.

"In light of the many challenges that we are facing, I ask everyone to work together to face these challenges and help President Aquino move the country forward," he added.

The survey was conducted just after Binay went to China on Feb. 18, upon the President's instructions, to make a last-ditch appeal for clemency in behalf of three Filipino drug mules on death row.

The visit prompted Binay's

MOST TRUSTED OFFICIAL Vice President Jejomar Binay holds a dialogue with residents of Vitas Tenement in Tondo, Manila on Thursday. AZER PARAGAS JR.

Supreme People's Court to postpone the execution of the Filipinos, originally scheduled for Feb. 20-21. But the week China announced the Filipinos would die by lethal injection on March 30.

Credit to Aquino

In an updated statement, Binay gave credit to Mr. Aquino for providing "good policy directions and leadership."

"We can only perform well with good policy directions and good leadership. President Aquino has provided both. I am grateful for the support and trust of the people. And I am grateful for the trust given by the President," he said.

"We are head to many challenges, and by working together, we can overcome these challenges and help our President move the country forward."

Trust and Approval Ratings of Top Officials
(in percent)

Officials	Trust		Approval	
	Mar-11	Oct-10	Mar-11	Oct-10
President Benigno Aquino III	75	80	74	79
Vice President Jejomar Binay	81	78	85	78
Senate Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile	56	56	60	57
Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.	51	53	56	58
Chief Justice Renato Corona	38	39	44	50

Source: Pulse Asia Inc.

Aquino's rating

Mr. Aquino's trust rating declined from 80 percent to 75 percent over the past few months. Twenty percent of the respondents said they were undecided on the matter, and 5 percent said they distrusted him.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile's trust rating of 56 percent in the previous survey remained unchanged, while Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. posted an increase of 4 points from 39 percent to 43 percent in the same period.

Chief Justice Renato Corona also posted a statistically-unchanged trust rating of 38 percent, down from 39 percent previously.

Corona, however, obtained a notable increase in his distrust rating of 27 percent, up from 20 percent in October 2010.

Across the country

Mr. Aquino, Binay and Enrile scored majority trust ratings across all geographic areas — with the balance of Luzon (53 percent to 80 percent), the Visayas (67 percent to 84 percent) and Mindanao (68 percent to 73 percent).

Among with Belmonte, the top three government officials also scored majority trust ratings in Metro Manila (53 percent to 78 percent).

Across socioeconomic classes, majority trust ratings were also obtained by Binay (76 percent to 80 percent), Mr. Aquino (71 percent to 78 percent) and Enrile (58 to 67 percent).

Only Corona failed to obtain a majority trust rating in any geographic area or socioeconomic class. He instead posted an increase of 13 percentage points in his distrust rating in Metro Manila, from 20 percent in the previous survey to 33 percent.

Mr. Aquino, Binay and Enrile also posted majority approval ratings at the national level for their performance.

Enrile's approval rating barely changed from 57 percent to October 2010 to 60 percent in March.

Fifty percent of respondents approved of Belmonte's performance, up from 45 percent.

Corona's approval rating declined by 3 percentage points from 50 percent to 32 percent in the latest survey. His disapproval rating soars to 24 percent from 14 percent.

Majority approval ratings

Across geographic areas, Pulse has noted that except for Corona, practically all of the country's leading national government officials enjoyed majority approval ratings in Metro Manila (70 percent to 79 percent) and the rest of Luzon (52 percent to 83 percent).

Mr. Aquino, Binay and Enrile also posted majority approval ratings in the Visayas (53 percent to 83 percent) and Mindanao (63 percent to 85 percent).

While Corona failed to obtain a majority approval rating in any area, his disapproval ratings went up in Metro Manila by 13 percentage points, and in the Visayas by 14 percentage points.

Across socioeconomic classes, majorities also approved of the performance of Mr. Aquino (69 percent to 80 percent), Binay (76 percent to 80 percent) and Enrile (58 to 61 percent).

Belmonte posted majority approval ratings in Classes ABC and D (51 percent to 54 percent).

Except for Corona

Pulse has noted that Corona was unable to score majority approval ratings in any socioeconomic class.

Except for the increase in the distrust and disapproval ratings of Corona, Pulse Asia said that, "between October and March 2011, the performance and trust ratings of the country's top national government officials remained basically unchanged."

Reports from Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research, and AJ Yap

WHAT WENT BEFORE

In 2006, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a leading shareholder of Philippine Commercial International Corp. (Philcomsat), alleged that the board of its subsidiary Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), was dissipating the firm's assets.

Enrile asked the board to explain how it spent a substantial portion of the P1 billion that PHC had supposedly gotten from Philcomsat.

The PHC is 80-percent owned by Philcomsat. Both are owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), whose shares were acquired in 1986 by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) on allegations they had been acquired through ill-gotten wealth.

Then PHC director Philip Ibrahim denied Enrile's allegations, saying the company's assets were intact.

He added that Philcomsat paid P394.4 million to PHC, another claim that the bulk of PHC's P1-billion worth of assets was possessed by Philcomsat.

'Overwhelming mismanagement'

The issue prompted the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises to conduct an inquiry into the alleged dissipation of PHC assets.

In its report, the Senate committee said it found "overwhelming mismanagement by the PCGG and its nominees over PHC, Philcomsat and PHC resulting in the deterioration of the financial condition of these companies."

It also brought to light the "soaring spending excesses of PHC, the generous compensation packages for government nominees, the PHC advances to its affiliates beyond the reach of PCGG composition and the existence of suspicious bank accounts."

In one of the hearings, then Philcomsat president Edmelo Ildefonso showed questionable loan grants to government contractors in POTC and Philcomsat as well as directors and officials of PHC.

Among others, she said that Bruker received P30.6 million, while another PHC director, Luis Lokin Jr., received P12.3 million from 2000 to 2005.

Ildefonso also showed a joint account with disbursements amounting to P1.2 million under the name of then PHC chair Benito Araneta.

At a separate hearing, Enrile said he was getting an annual compensation of P6 million.

Excerpts of the Senate hearing may be viewed on the official website of Philcomsat at www.philcomsat.com.ph/videos.html.

Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Philcomsat and Senate of the Philippines

BIR sues 3 former Philcomsat execs

From page A1

pension that used to control the rights to satellite transponders during the Marcos years. It is now a telecommunications company that continues to be embroiled in a corporate dispute.

Bruker's P633M

In 2007, the SIR discovered that Bruker earned P625.76 million, but failed to file his income tax returns.

The BIR said that from 2003 to 2007, Bruker accumulated a tax deficiency amounting to P526.83 million, inclusive of surcharges and interests.

The agency discovered that he earned P15.4 million in 2003, P40.5 million in 2004, P37 million in 2005 and P60 million in 2006.

As a corporate officer, Bruker said he was getting an annual compensation of P6 million.

Excerpts of the Senate hearing may be viewed on the official website of Philcomsat at www.philcomsat.com.ph/videos.html.

Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Philcomsat and Senate of the Philippines

Lokin's deficiency

Lokin, a lawyer, has a tax deficiency of P12.4 million from 2000 to 2007, according to the SIR.

The BIR claimed that Lokin underdeclared his income from Philcomsat by reporting that he received P6.9 million in 2003, P2.3 million in 2004, P5.9 million in 2005, P2.5 million in 2006 and P7.7 million in 2007.

Lokin is also facing 36 counts for failure to file value-added tax returns for 2000, 2006 and 2007 from his work as a lawyer. The BIR said Lokin had P5.7 million in tax deficiency from his work.

As for Araneta, the SIR said he had failed to declare his exact salaries, allowances and fees, and director's allowances and per diem from Philcomsat as well as other taxable income from different sources.

Underdeclaration

SIR investigators discovered that Araneta underdeclared his income by P414.85 million in 2003, P52.2 million in 2004 and P55.8 million in 2005.

They based the amounts on travel allowances, reimbursements and advances treated as "advances to affiliates" in the PHC books not accounted for by Araneta, and proceeds from the redemption of investment plans, trusts and special savings account which Araneta had allegedly appropriated for himself.

Araneta has a total of P67.7 million in tax deficiency, broken down as follows: P23.7 million in 2003, P45.5 million in 2004 and P28.4 million in 2005.

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Real story behind Liz Taylor

From page A1

The contradictions above were fascinating. She could seem desperate yet seductively aristocratic yet bawdy. The tiny voice and petite stature seemed at odds with the femininity that would define her glamorous career.

But when she was young—so early, family friendly films such as "Lassie Come Home" (1943) and especially "National Velvet" (1944)—she possessed a startling and mature beauty far someone her age.

Those enormous violet eyes, that luxurious dark hair and flawless skin...they were all there even back then.

Classic but gorgeous

Under Vincente Minnelli's direction in "Father of the Bride" (1950), she got a rare chance to show off some comic ability as a young woman trying to put on the perfect wedding, even though Spencer Tracy, as her beleaguered father, got much of the big laughs.

In 1951, opposite a scowling Alan Montgomery Clift in "A Place in the Sun," she was gorgeous, sophisticated, vibrant.

When Dory first met and she asked flirtatiously, "Do I make you nervous?" as they began to play billiards, there was only one answer.

But an evolution was occurring during this time in Taylor's career. Her sweet, fresh looks collided with the pain and anger that seethed within many of her characters.

One of her strangest performances came in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958), as the fragile and damaged Southern belle Maggie.

She was all curves, dressed in clingy whites, alternately playing and pleading in a beachy Southern drawl, exchanging bemused Williams' banter with Paul Newman as his prey.

The year 1959 found her in another Williams adaptation, "Suddenly, Last Summer," as a young woman in danger after witnessing a tragedy opposite Clift again). The playwright's work suited her—the tormented characters, the gross, gothic theatricality of it all.

Best actress

"I'm not like anyone, I'm me," she announced in a moment of defiant confidence in "Butterfield 8" (1960). But as Gloria, the sassy, brassy, booze inside, smoke-and-sell, she also unanimously acknowledged, "I was the star of all I met!"

Taylor was over the top in her big confessional scene with Eddie Fisher, but still riveting to watch. The performance would earn her the first of her two Academy Awards for best actress.

And then there was the 1963 Joseph L. Mankiewicz epic "Cleopatra," which became infamous not just for its scope (it's the most expensive movie ever made—$44 million...if you are just for inflation) but also for providing the place where Taylor's path crossed Richard Burton's.

It was Mike Nichols who got the best out of Taylor in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (1966), She and Burton tear at each other as the boozy and bickering husband and wife George and Martha.

The performance earned Taylor her second best actress Oscar. (She also received an honorary Academy Award in 1993 for her humanitarian work.)

Even in her last film role—which, sadly, was the 1994 low-action version of "The Flintstones"—there was glimmer of her star-power.

Her performance as Pearl's mother-in-law earned her a Razzie Award nomination but went supporting actress, but she definitely livened things up.

She had pieces, all her life and her jewels, flashing those famous eyes and calling for a scrape line when the other one got sickened.

She was all irresistible, even then.

A three bride

And Taylor was so prolific as a bride that jokers liked to call her Mrs. Hilton Wilding Todd Fisher Burton Warner Fortensky.

ELIZABETH Taylor in her Oscar-winning role of Martha and Richard Burton as George in the 1966 movie "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Taylor was branded a "home wrecker" for allegedly breaking up Fisher's marriage to Debbie Reynolds, mother of his two children.

But two years after her 1959 marriage to Fisher, Taylor met Burton on the set of "Cleopatra."

"You anybody ever told you that you're a very pretty girl?" he said.

Madly in love

Her reaction: "Here's the great lover, the great wit, the great intellectual of Wales, and he comes out with a line like that?"

They were soon madly in love, and after divorces from their spouses, they were married on March 15, 1964.

They divorced in 1974, remarried in 1975, and divorced finally in 1976.

Taylor then moved to politics. In 1976, she married Virginian John W. Warner and helped his successful campaign for the US Senate in 1978. They were divorced in 1982.

'Very lonely'

"Having a senator's wife is not easy," she told a reporter. "It's very lonely. I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

Her companion as she battled pneumonia in April 1990 was Larry Fortensky, 37, a construction worker she met while both were undergoing treatment at the Betty Ford Center.

She married Fortensky in October 1991 at friend Michael Jackson's ranch.

"Marriage does give a sense of security that just living together can't," she said.

But in August 1995, they announced a real separation; in February 1996 she filed for divorce. AP

Assistant Editor Tony Bengcayo

Across the NATION

Open pit mining ban enforced soon

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE GOVERNMENT of South Cotabato is bent on enforcing a ban on open pit mining in the province, which Malacañang is trying to block through veiled threats to the local government.

The province is site of a $5.9-billion copper-gold project said to be one of the biggest in the world.

Gov. Arthur Pingoy said in a phone interview that he had signed the implementing rules and regulation (IRR) of an ordinance that bans open pit mining, a method which requires the blasting of entire hills to open access to mineral deposits.

The IRR would be published in a national newspaper after which the provincial government would enforce the ban.

"The environment code is not just about the open pit mining ban. It also deals with quarrying and other activities which may affect our environment," the governor said.

He did acknowledge that the provision banning open pit mining could have an adverse effect on mining investments in South Cotabato.

One such project is Tampakan copper-gold mine, which could produce nearly 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product and boost economic growth.

The open pit ban could also disrupt various small-scale mining operations, as well as coal mining, where conglomerate San Miguel Corp. has ventured into.

"The reality is that while this ordinance was passed by the previous Sangguniang Panlalawigan and signed by the former governor, it is the administration which has to implement it," said Pingoy. "It has to be implemented."

President Aquino came under fire from an environment group in Mindanao for opposing a plan by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines to adopt a consistent stand against open pit mining.

Ifi Bella-Maniwang, OIC convener of Panalipdan Mindanao, a coalition of environmental groups, said Mr. Aquino answered to Itaas Pilipinas for violation of good governance to the Filipino people when he assumed office.

"It seems that Mr. Aquino, after promised to listen to his critics—the people—is now turning his back on us," said the mayor in an e-mail statement.

"Rather than supporting the people and local officials, Mr. Aquino discarded this down and is rather promoting regulation over protection," Maniwang said. WITH A REPORT FROM ORLANDO B. DINOY, INQUIRER MINDANAO

Going bald 'little sacrifice' for top police graduate

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SILANG, Cavite—What brought Alvic Bunquen, 22, close to tears were not the exhausting days and nights she spent training to become a police officer but losing the hair that she had grown for years and refused to shorten.

She now looks back, saying she realized that sporting a bald head during the first months at the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) was just a "little sacrifice" that hundreds cadets had to face with.

"I was even macho, the likes of him. But you'll get rid of all those when you come here. We were transformed from civilians to cadets," she said.

Proving again that the police service knows no gender, Bunquen emerged valedictorian among the 202 male-dominated PNPA Maragtas (Maintaining Satisfied in Upholding Group) Class of 2011 this well-guarded town today.

This is the third time that a woman topped the police academy's graduating class.

It was not just Bunquen who dreamed what woman power was like.

Six other spots in the top 10 were all taken by women—three-star Albaytar, from Calauan, Laguna (second); Cherilyn Bayuga from Bulacan, Bulacan (third); Joy Anne Cruz of Magallanes, Cavite (fifth); Ms. Gerlene Mavel of Tuao Machine City, Cavite (eighth); Catherine Grace Medinas, Aklan (ninth); and Rowena Infante of Kalookan, Quezon, Palawan (10).

Four in the top 10 were men—Rod Karlo Quijano of Victorias City, Negros Occidental (fourth), Maynard Pascual of Antsirc, Isabela (sixth), Johnny Boy Tuay of Kananagan, Lanao del Norte (seventh), and Bulilan Batasa of Malungfay, Leyte, who tied with Soliano in the 10th place.

"We don't think (the male cadets) were intimidated. But they would often joke around, saying they were just being 'gentlemen' and that 'ladies (should be) first' or they gave way," Bunquen said.

From 'ate' to 'mate'

Also among the graduating cadets is Bunquen's sister, Malia, 21. They are the first sisters to graduate in the same class.

"She's the one with the stronger heart. So it would be embarrassing to quit while my younger sister had not cried at all (during the training). She was my inspiration here," Bunquen said of Malia, who now refers to her as "mate" (short of classmate) from the usual "ate" (older sister) at home.

The Bunquen sisters, from Baguio City are daughters of SPO2 Levino, who is assigned to Abra.

They said their father wanted his five children to join the police service, that their three other younger siblings are now all taking up Ali Cimol, biology to a university in Baguio.

"My job (as a cop) was our family's ticket and (when I) graduated here he worked hard and this inspired us, too," Bunquen said.

At an early age, the Bunquen were taught to grow crops and housework to help meet the family's needs. She said they were taught to share responsibilities.

VALEDICTORIAN Alvic Bunquen (right) and her younger sister, Malia (left), are both members of the Philippine National Police Academy Maragtas Class of 2011. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Fresh tomato'

Bunquen said that as female officers, their hospital is also a vital role in the police service, especially on cases involving women and children.

Ultimately, she said, what would count "is not the gender, but the performance."

He could even be possible that the first female Philippine National Police (PNP) director would come from their class, she said.

"If for a President we already had two women, why should it be impossible to have a woman to become the chief of the PNP" Allaytan added.

Bunquen and Allaytan will join the PNP while Batuyo will enlist in the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. They all will start out in the rank of police inspectors.

Like the rest of the class, whose name Maragtas is also a Cebuano term for dependable, they promised to bring honor to the late Sen. Aquino's government administration.

"The PNP is a big organization and chances are that the system might just eat you up. If you want to start change, it should begin in each members of the organization. Let us be the change around...be the breakthrough among the rotten ones and effect change?" Bunquen said.

DPWH report tags 65 E. Visayas buildings quake 'vulnerable'

By Joey Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Public works officials tagged at least 65 buildings in Eastern Visayas as vulnerable to strong quakes, which volcanologists said could range from magnitude 6-7.

Sonnie Lim, information officer of the regional office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), on Wednesday said the department has been inspecting buildings in the region since the flood quake last year.

The department, she said, declared 21 public school buildings, 22 municipal buildings, five rural health centers, a village hall, three gymnasiums, a district hospital and two commercial buildings in the region as vulnerable to strong quakes.

The 21 school buildings are found in Leyte (18), Eastern Samar (19) and Southern Leyte (6), while the 22 municipal buildings are found in Leyte (11), Samar (4), Northern Samar (3), Southern Leyte (2) and one each in Biliran and Eastern Samar.

The DPWH report also said five rural health centers vulnerable to strong tremors are in Northern Samar (2), Eastern Samar (2) and Leyte (1), while the three gymnasiums are in Northern Samar (2) and Southern Leyte (1).

The other structures found to be vulnerable in a strong earthquake are two commercial buildings in Biliran, a district hospital and a barangay hall in Maasin City, Southern Leyte.

All these structures are either dilapidated and have shown hairline cracks on floors and walls, Lim said, which were danger signs, the DPWH report said.

Majority of these structures were built in the 1950s like Tacloban Building of Angaban Elementary School in Carigara, Leyte, which was built in 1952.

Vice mayor pleads for help to save his town from drug trade

PAGADIAN CITY—A vice mayor is appealing for help to stop Christian Government of his town in Zamboanga del Sur by what he said was an illegal drug trade so rampant that deals are being made in the open.

Vice Mayor Ubal Talumpa, of Lakungan, Zamboanga del Sur, made the appeal at last week's drug summit here.

In his town, Talumpa said, drug deals "have become so ordinary."

The barangay complained of police inaction which is driving him and other residents of the town to helplessness. Lakungan is a fourth-class municipality with an estimated population of 34,538.

Talumpa said drug lords operate without fear despite the presence of the military's 1st Infantry Division headquarters there.

What was more baffling, Talumpa said, was the release of arrested suspects despite evidence against them.

"Dangerous drugs will never proliferate if there's no one in high position protecting the pushers," Talumpa said.

Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles said the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has been regularly issuing search lists of people suspected to be involved in the drug trade.

Chief Supt. Arlan Alhambra, PDEA director for Western Mindanao, said "we know who these people are."

"All we need is strong evidence and we will not hesitate one whatever they are," he said.

He, however, refused to identify who the suspected drug lords in the area are.

Alhambra also denied that inaction plagues the fight against drugs in Talumpa's town.

He said the number of arrests made by PDEA since 2002 would prove that the anti-narcotics campaign was not dragging on its job. Jude Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

In Biñan, money matters in fight to keep house of Rizal mom

By Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The city government of Biñan in Laguna will release P20 million, and is ready to open at least P60 million more, to a deal to preserve the 200-year-old ancestral home owned by the family of Teodora Alonso, the mother of national hero Jose Rizal.

The city government has decided to buy the two-storey house at the city plaza that used to dominate detailed negotiations fail between the government and the current owners Leonardo Alonso.

The P20 million that the city council approved for release yesterday was just the initial cash deposit should a gun-to-expropriation proceedings for the property, said Vice Mayor Arnel Dimagiba in a phone interview Wednesday.

Mayor Marlyn Alonso-Naguiat is currently negotiating with Alonso in keep the property in Biñan but negotiations were suspended as Jul because the owner, based on initial talks, has refused to donate or sell the house, according to Dimagiba.

He said in 10 to 15 days, city officials would bring the case to court to determine the actual cost of the property by expro-

PORTION of the house that used to belong to the family of national hero Jose Rizal's mother, Teodora Alonso

priation purposes.

He said the city government is willing to immediately deposit an amount representing 15 percent of the value of the property, or whatever amount would be specified by the court in an expropriation proceeding.

Initial discussions made by city government placed the value of the 2,000-square-meter property at around P60 million, while the house, which occupies 600 sq. m. and is in a tumbown state, is valued at around P200,000, according to Dimagiba.

"I would say what remains of the house is its shell ..."

He said the city government is also in talks with the owners of the adjacent lot, which occupies 600 sq. m. and is in a tumbown state, is valued at around P200,000, according to Dimagiba.

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The deal was for the house to be taken apart piece by piece and rebuilt inside the heritage resort.

The city government objected and refused to issue a demolition permit as a bid to preserve the house which, it stressed, is a historical heritage of the city.

"But (the owners) defied the city government and continued tearing down the house (from the inside)," said Rosario Sta. Maria, president of a local action group, United Artists for Cultural Conservation and Development, and now head of the newly formed Save the Alfonso House Movement.

Sta. Maria said since June last year, about 70 percent of the house has been taken away, including the staircase and the doors.

"I would say what remains of the house is its shell," he added.

The movement, composed of several other cultural and civic groups, is now in the deadline of the campaign with a pledge to raise money for the expropriation costs.

In a forum on March 13, the movement began collecting 10 in donations from professors and students. It put up donation tents at the plaza and promised to reward donors with some limits.

"Some people may say our campaign is a tribal. But precisely, a piece of our heritage and shows love for identity, love for history and love for country," Sta. Maria said.

John Hay developer fails to pay again, says BCDA

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay has again failed to pay some of its obligations to the government in spite of a restructured lease contract in 2008, an official of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said on Monday.

BCDA vice president Dean Santiago told reporters that it needs the city's help as government could pressure the 91 ha-leased Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to remit unpaid fees.

Because of a set of 19 conditions which paved the way for Camp John Hay's privatization, the Baguio government is entitled to 25 percent of rent paid by CJHDevco, said city treasurer Thelma Manuel.

The city government also expects shares representing the mandatory 5 percent gross income of Camp John Hay business entities/projects registered under BCDA or the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, she said.

CJHDevco has control over 160 hectares of built-up areas in Camp John Hay, and is serving as landlord for other enterprises that set up shop there, among them the 9.8 ha-commercial/residential development called Manor and the Baguio Country Club, which Alaska Land Inc. (ALI) is building.

Manuel said CJHDevco owed Baguio P690 million in outstanding rent shares as of the city's 2010 financial report.

Santiago was invited to address questions about the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ). He was accompanied by Glynara Esteban, acting operations group manager of the John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), the BCDA subsidiary overseeing JHSEZ.

The Mayor Daniel Fariñas said all parties have agreed to meet the councilors in executive session to discuss the issues in more and end a protracted debate that dates back to 1996, when CJHDevco won the lease.

"BCDA will furnish the city council a list of (JHSEZ) locators; then JHMC will work together (with) BCDA and the city government to pursue what is due the city," Fariñas said.

The hearing on Tuesday tried but failed to reach Alfredo Vaquiz, CJHDevco chairman, however, said Singson gave the council a written commitment to discuss terms with the Baguio government in the executive session.

It has been 20 years since the Subic turned in fulfill 10 judicially exited over its bases to the country, including the former John Hay Air Station (Camp John Hay), also a rest and recreation base of American soldiers.

CJHDevco had tangled with BCDA before over its overdue P2.6 billion annual repayments, dating back to the 1990s, which was addressed by a repayment contract.

But the situation worsened when a 2002 Supreme Court ruling nullified the tax incentives offered by the JHSEZ.

Congress removed CJHDevco's tax benefits when it passed Republic Act No. 9400 in 2007. In 2008, BCDA and the developer finalized a restructured lease contract that incorporated ALI investments, and which paid off most of CJHDevco's debts through property swaps and shares. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS: Mayor Hermael Braganza and OIC Interior Antonio Nolasco turn over one of several houses at the Hundred Islands Eco-Village to a beneficiary family

New homes bring hope in Alaminos

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS CITY—A row of houses in bright colors could well become a symbol of hope for several families who have been living in constant fear of high tides on a coastal village here.

The family of Pedro Calora, 65, is one of them. For 25 years, Calora and his family had lived in a shack in tidal inundations that goes under water when the sea rises. When the waters come in, they have to stay up all night as there is no place to lie down.

Life is bound to change for them through evacuation houses painted in bright red, green, blue and yellow from built in the Hundred Islands Eco-Village in Barangay Lucap.

"At last, the sleepless nights would soon be over," says Calora, a fisherman.

Calora's and 13 other families received the houses through Gawad Kalinga, the Hunter Peace Development Foundation and the Alaminos City government.

Two homes donated by the Alaminos 100, a group of city residents, are under construction.

The 16 initial beneficiary families received certificates of occupancy from the GK Foundation and city government on Wednesday.

The houses are small by urban standards and building them is inexpensive as well. Each unit is four by five meters with a loft and a toilet. Water and electrical connections are readily available. Beneficiaries helped build them.

Nine of the initial beneficiaries are solo parents. Three are widows while one was abandoned by her husband.

Amalinda Custodio-Bolivar, head of the city cooperative office in charge of selecting beneficiaries, said the houses were not "dole outs" since beneficiaries helped build them.

The beneficiaries went through an 18-week seminar that included values formation.

More houses are being planned, says Custodio-Bolivar. GK Singapore, she said, would build 40 for the next batch of beneficiaries.

She said, however, that more funds are needed to create the capital 2,000 houses.

The beneficiaries gave a commitment to make the Hundred Islands Eco-Village their new community. It means a dry place to sleep in at night, beyond the reach of seawaters.

"We cannot thank Mayor Hermi (Mayor Hermael Braganza) enough for this opportunity to live in a beautiful new town house," says Evangeline Mina, 47, a widower who has six children.

Trees in way of road plan are safe for now, says exec

By Edson A. Dizon Angeles
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Public works officials said they were considering to study on how to save century-old trees that could be standing in the way of a planned road-widening project in Cebu City, southern Cebu, but fell short of making a commitment to save the trees.

Isaias Wandoja, assistant district engineer, said the study would identify ways to preserve the trees like moving them elsewhere, redesigning the road to bypass where the trees stand or constructing the space inbetween the trees are into center islands.

"As much as possible, no tree huge building or tree would be affected (by the project)," she said.

"What we are doing is only to conduct a survey to determine what will be affected along the (road) right of way," she added. "We did not say that the trees would be cut. We do not do any cutting of trees or demolition along the (road) right of way."

She said the Department of Public Works and Highways was still conducting a study to determine the feasibility of widening a portion of the national highway from Naga City to Carmen.

Only P27 million has been set aside to fund the conduct of the feasibility study as well as to pay owners of land for right-of-way and spend for the removal of structures that are in the way of the planned road-widening project, Wandoja added.

She, however, said the implementation of the road widening project remained uncertain because there was still no funding for it.

Still, she added, the DPWH would ask the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for an inventory of the century-old trees.

In Maguindanao, coved port offers ships refuge

POLLOC PEDDOINT, Maguindanao—Regional officials are offering this coved port as alternative port of call for domestic and international vessels amid increasing competition in other ports due to set inclusive and the seven transactions.

Magali Bautista, executive secretary of the Infrastructure Region 12 Mindanao Development Authority (MIMDA), said Polloc Port is strategically located and ideal for container liners.

Meantime and the world's ten strongest ports are those built behind cover and have natural shields against huge waves.

Mohaimin Mohamad, Polloc Freeport manager, said Polloc is covered by Bongga Island and Parang Bay, which the region has declared an economic zone.

Mohamad said opening Polloc Port, port as an alternative port of call and refuge for ships in distress would be ARMM's edge in the maritime industry.

"It's high time for the maritime industry to make use of the almost zero-typhoon history through this port," said Mohamad.

The port's freshwater refilling station, considered "best in quality" by docking vessels' crews, flows in from the virgin forests of Ambal River in the Bembaran Ranges.

Master Trinidad, engineer and head of the ARMM Social Patrol Management Office, said the region's foreign development (and not), among them Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), have helped improve the port's facilities.

The port was built in 1977. Mohamad said previous romantic and risks associated with the ports here (point) the Polloc Freeport, including the Insurgency 7.6 quake and the tsunami that it generated in Central and Southern Mindanao on Aug. 17, 1976. Assad R. Wandani, Inquirer Mindanao

A FOREIGN vessel seeks refuge at the Polloc Port.

Gov't drops plan to send PH rescue team to Japan

By Marlon Ramos

INSTEAD of a search-and-rescue team, the Philippines is sending P1.3 million worth of emergency relief supplies to Japan for victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami, an official said yesterday.

Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said the food and medical items prepared by the Department of Social Welfare and Development would be flown to Japan today by Philippine Airlines.

He said a 40-member advance party which the Armed Forces of the Philippines said in Japan a few days ago would oversee the distribution of the relief items.

"They will work together with our embassy officials in Japan. After they finished their task, they will immediately fly back home," he said.

No response from Tokyo

The government has dropped its plan to dispatch a 46-member rescue contingent to Japan after failing to receive a reply from Tokyo on its offer.

Ramos gave no explanation and referred media questions to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

"The DFA would be the best agency to explain what caused the cancellation. I don't want to second-guess. I'm just following instructions from the DFA," Ramos said in a news briefing at Camp Aguinaldo.

"I can only speculate that there are already a number of rescue volunteers there," he said. "But we perfectly understand the sensitivities of the Japanese people."

Last week, Japan said countries offering help should be self-sufficient and well-equipped to cope with possible nuclear radiation from crippled nuclear reactors.

HANDS GRIEF: Rescuers collapsed in half-hidden from a body as they search a debris-filled area in the coastal city of Ishinomaki, Miyagi prefecture. Burying the dead has overtaken in the city as a key concern after the Japanese lived in the aftermath of a huge earthquake and tsunami. AP

25 foreign missions leave Tokyo

TWENTY-FIVE foreign missions have either shut down or moved out of Tokyo because of radiation concerns, but the Philippine Embassy said yesterday it remained open in the Japanese capital.

Ambassador Manuel M. Lopez said he and his staff would continue to extend assistance to Filipinos affected by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan and the resulting nuclear emergency and water contamination.

"We are staying," Lopez told reporters. "The Philippine Embassy is open and will remain open to serve the needs of our people here in Japan, especially those affected by the disaster."

Lopez said that not a single member of his staff had requested permission to leave Tokyo, his said embassy personnel are on vacation in the Philippines had been recalled.

Lopez said Japan's foreign ministry had reported that five countries from its Tokyo, US Secretary Ambassador from Latin American either closed their embassies or moved them to other areas, including Osaka, Hiroshima and Kobe. AP Ilgo

Radiation anxiety sparks panic buying in Tokyo; PH sends water

TOKYO—Shops across Tokyo began rationing goods—milk, toilet paper, rice and tea, so—on Thursday as a run on hoarded wares coupled with delivery disruptions left shelves bare nearly two weeks after a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Faced with a looming water crisis, Japanese officials said they were considering a plan to import bottled water.

One of the first to offer help was the Philippine Airlines, which planned to airlift a donation of 27 tons, or 70,000 bottles, of water, according to Reuters. The cargo is the first batch of a total 700,000 bottles of 330 ml each donated by PAL's sister company, Asia Brewery Inc.

Anxiety over food and water remained high a day after Tokyo officials reported that radioactive iodine in the capital's tap water measured more than twice the level considered safe for babies.

Radiation has been leaking from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, 220 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, where it was struck by the March 11 quake and engulfed by the ensuing tsunami. Power to all efforts to get the plant's crucial cooling systems back in operation have been beset by explosions, fire and radiation scares.

The No. 1 and No. 4 reactors at the plant gave off white smoke on Thursday, but officials said this was not interrupting the work of trying to repair the facilities.

3 workers injured

Shortly after noon, however, three workers suffered radiation burns in their legs while they were dragging an electrical cable through contaminated water at Reactor No. 3.

The three workers were rushed to the hospital. More than two dozen people have been injured trying to bring the Fukushima plant under control.

Workers have managed to restore lighting in the control central room of the No. 1 reactor, an important step toward restarting the cooling system.

The latest developments highlight the challenges that Japan faces after a 9-magnitude quake off Sendai triggered a massive tsunami in northeastern Japan.

An estimated 26,000 people have been officially listed as dead or missing, and hundreds of thousands have been left homeless as officials scramble to avert a major nuclear crisis.

11 kinds of vegetables

Radiation has seeped into raw milk, seawater and 11 kinds of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower and turnips, grown in areas around the Fukushima nuclear plant.

Experts say the radioactive toxins found in Tokyo's water supply is short-lived, with a half-life of eight days—the length of time it takes for half of it to break down harmlessly.

Authorities, however, recommended that infants not drink the contaminated tap water as they are particularly vulnerable to radioactive iodine, which can cause thyroid cancer.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano pleaded for calm. Officials urged residents to avoid panicked stockpiling, sending workers to distribute 250,000 bottles—enough for three small households—of water for each of the 80,000 babies less than a year old.

That didn't stop Reiko Hirakawa, mother of 5-year-old Shota, from rushing to a nearby store to stock up.

"The problem was that I used to buy bottles of water," the Tokyo real estate agent said. "I also don't know whether I can let her take a bath."

More contamination

New readings showed Tokyo's tap water was back to safe levels on Thursday, but the relief was tempered by elevated levels of the cancer-linked isotope in two neighboring prefectures. Chiba and Kanagawa.

Tap water in Kawaguchi City in Saitama north of Tokyo contained 210 becquerels of radioactive iodine—well above the 100 becquerels considered safe for babies but below the 300-becquerel level for adults, said health ministry official Shoji Mizuta.

In Chiba prefecture, the water tested high for radiation in two separate areas, said water safety official Kenji Kuma. The government dozen warned families to 11 cities in Chiba not to feed infants tap water.

"The high level of iodine was due to the nuclear disaster," Kuma said. "There is no question about it."

Radiation levels also soared dangerously high at Hitachi in Ibaraki prefecture, about 120 km south of the Fukushima plant, until city water officials began measuring it. Officials were distributing bottled water, he said.

The limits refer to consumer consumption rates, and officials said parents should stop using tap water for baby formula but that it was no problem for adults to consume small amounts.

Buying limits

Marunouchi supermarket in central Tokyo sought to impose buying limits on specific items to prevent hoarding; only one carton of milk per family, one 5-kilogram bag of rice, one package of toilet paper, one pack of diapers, signs said. Similar notices at some drugs stores said customers could only purchase two feminine hygiene items at a time.

Kayoko Kano, a spokesperson at Marunouchi headquarters, acknowledged that the markets and stores resulted in shortages of some products.

Digging for root crops

A spokesperson for Peoples & Suzuki Japan said its plant was fully operational but that selling buckets to Tokyo may be affecting distribution. "Consumers are nervous, and they may be buying up supplies," Sonyuki Ikeda added.

Kamitsu continued in the frigid, tsunami-struck northeast. Farmer Sumiko Marumoto went out to her fields in Fukushima and dug up all the vegetables she could on Thursday—not to sell but to eat.

"If it's in the ground, it's still safe," she said. "The leafy ones are no good anymore. We are digging up all our onions and onions so that as we can."

Marumoto, 65, said she was worried about the future. "If this goes on, it is going to really hurt us."

Some 440,000 households in the northeast still do not have water, and electricity has not been restored to some 200,000 homes.

Most complex mission

More than 19,000 US Marines and sailors, with 20 ships and 140 aircraft, have delivered relief supplies, surveyed ports, reinforced aerial search-and-rescue and provided support to rescue crews.

"This is without a doubt the most complex humanitarian mission ever conducted," Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, commander of the US 7th Fleet, said in a statement on Thursday.

"It is not one disaster, but three: an earthquake, a tsunami, and a crisis at a nuclear power plant, made even more complicated by heavy weather and bad transportation," he added.

Damage is estimated at $309 billion, making it the most costly natural disaster on record.

Reports from AP, New York Times, News Service and Reuters

LONG WAIT FROM THE SEA: Rin Taka (right) and an unidentified man lift a gargantuan out of a blanket recalled when it was swept by the March 11 tsunami. REUTERS

Porpoise left by tsunami in paddy returned to sea

SENDAI, Japan—Rescuers have returned a stranded baby porpoise to the sea after it was found splashing in an inland rice paddy where it was beached earlier this month by Japan's massive tsunami.

A passer-by spotted the juvenile Dall's porpoise on Tuesday just over 2 kilometers from shore, and more than a week after the March 11 disaster, Yolanda Miguel-Arenas said. The pair sheep onion, or sea onion, animal rescuers who rushed to secure the creature to the sea.

"We had a few scratches but seems otherwise okay," Miguel-Arenas said in the coastal city of Sendai.

Fishing porpoises, which lack a dorsal fin, can grow to be about 1.6 meters long. They are native to much of coastal Asia.

Sendai, 320 kilometers north of Tokyo, was among many communities that suffered massive damage when the 9-magnitude earthquake and massive tsunami struck, smashing entire communities.

Wagatsuma's 3-year-old pet sheep in Sendai has become a collecting point for strays and pets whose owners have been killed or left homeless in the disaster and are unable to bring the animals with them to shelters.

"Sometimes people come to look for their pets and there have been a few who found them, but it's usually people asking us to help me because they can't bring their pets with them," Wagatsuma said. AP

From page B1

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)—both under the Department of Agriculture—said they would screen animal-based products from Japan for abnormal radiation levels and recommend the suspension of the importation of suspect items.

Shrimps and food items that were to market shelves before the earthquake were safe to eat. The Philippines does not import meat, like beef, from Japan, he said.

Mackerel

BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento said the government also would conduct random sampling of mackerel from Japan to determine if they have a high radioactivity level.

Sarmiento said the Philippines imported 4,000 tons of mackerel from Japan last year for food processing.

Philippine nuclear authorities were also keeping a close watch on any imports from areas of Japan that were close to the stricken nuclear plant, Ron Cagulong, spokesman for the port of Manila, told Agence France-Presse.

"Not all parts of Japan were affected. There are certain areas that are not concentrating on," Cagulong said. Any product coming from those areas would be issued for radiation, he said.

The Philippines exports more food to Japan than it imports. Most of the products the Philippines buys from Japan are manufactured items, such as noodles and tea.

Seafood, seaweed

The United States and Hong Kong have already restricted the importation of Japanese food, and France warns the European Union to take the same.

Russia ordered a halt to food imports from four prefectures near the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, 250 kilometers northeast of Tokyo.

Australia also banned products from the area, including seaweed and seafood, milk, dairy products, fruits, fruit and vegetables.

But Australia said that Japanese food already on store shelves was safe, or it had been shipped before the quake, and that "the risk of Australian consumers being exposed to radionuclides in food imported from Japan is negligible."

Singapore also suspended imports of milk products and other foodstuffs from the nine prefectures—Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki and Tochigi.

Canada implemented enhanced import controls on products from the four prefectures.

TOO YOUNG, TOO SOON: A Japanese boy is pressed at an evacuation center for radiation in Fukushima. AFP/JIJI PRESS

Right actions

"Food safety issues are an additional dimension of the emergency," three UN agencies said in a joint statement issued in Geneva, pledging they were "committed to mobilizing their knowledge and expertise" to help Japan.

Japan was taking the right actions, said the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

"Food monitoring is being implemented, measurements of radioactivity in food are taking place and the results are being communicated publicly," the three agencies added.

The statement was compounded by the Japanese government's revelation on Wednesday that radioactive iodine in the drinking water was more than twice the level deemed safe for infants, although it remained within safe adult limits. (See story on *Page A1-3*.)

Contaminated veggies

The Japanese government has also halted shipments of uncanned milk and vegetables from Fukushima and three adjoining prefectures, and stepped up radiation monitoring at another six, covering an area that includes Tokyo.

The health ministry has detected 82,000 becquerels of radioactive caesium—134 times the safe limit—in the green vegetable komatsuna, and elevated levels in another 10 vegetables, including cabbage and turnips. *With a report from AFP*

WHO: High cost of health care drives families to poverty

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino families fall into financial hardship every year due to the high cost of health care, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

In a statement, the WHO said a study it conducted this year showed that 1.16 million families in Vietnam also suffer the same fate each year together with those in Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia.

WHO added that in all these countries and in others, many households have no access to health care due to the high cost.

"The studies, commissioned by WHO this year, seek to give governments a better understanding of how households are adversely affected by health payments," the statement said.

"The surveys found that people who do receive treatment sometimes are driven into poverty because of the cost of medicines and health services," it added.

The WHO said many more "simply can't afford care and, therefore, fall prey to the potential risk of serious health consequences."

"The gaping situation is worsening worldwide, particularly among low- and medium-income families in developing nations," it said.

To alleviate the financial burden of health payments, WHO said its partner agencies, in collaboration with the participating countries, began discussions yesterday in Manila to address the problem.

"We are all troubled that in many countries around the world, millions of people suffer from ill-health because they cannot get the health care they need or become poorer due to health care," Dr. Shin Young-soo, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific.

"This is of particular concern in our region, where out-of-pocket payments for medicines and health services are often excessive," he added.

The WHO official said the two-day meeting would also consider how the participating countries and development agencies can work in closer partnership on health financing issues.

The World Health Report (2010) and the WHO/World Financing Strategy for the Asia Pacific Region (2010-2015) recommend development financing options to reduce the adverse impact of out-of-pocket payments, including strengthening solidarity mechanisms for the poor and vulnerable.

"Such policies can help countries make further headway on their paths to universal coverage, whereby everyone has access to quality health care at an affordable cost," the WHO said.

Lucio Tan brother to testify; bring it on, says tycoon's lawyer

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE ESTRANGED brother of tycoon Lucio Tan will testify in the government's forfeiture case against the billionaire, after the Sandiganbayan granted yesterday the prosecution's motion to present additional witnesses to support the main charge.

Tan's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, did not object to the prosecution's request, but questioned the length of time it was taking to get Tan's brother, Mariano Tanenglian, on the witness stand.

This was affirming the witness's credibility, Mendoza said.

Assistant Solicitor General Maurista Bocqui said Tanenglian's application for immunity in the case had been "approved in principle" by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The PCGG is expected to name as immunity agreement covering Tanenglian.

"He [Tanenglian] will testify," Bocqui told reporters.

Tanenglian is a defendant in the forfeiture case against Tan brother but is related to testify against him after the two had a falling out. Tanenglian said Tan owed his wife Tan's share in the Philippine Airlines.

Mendoza said he did not object to the witnesses so the case could proceed.

But he said the allegations with Tanenglian were Tan immunity were taking too long.

"In effect, getting a witness to testify based on immunity is just like purchasing testimony. The negotiations are taking too long, it's like bargaining and haggling. The point is that you are getting a witness, you take so long in haggling, there must be something you are haggling about," Mendoza said, referring to an interview.

He said a witness's credibility was being damaged the longer he was not being presented.

He stated that there had been much talk about Tanenglian's testimony here he would reveal explosive things, but that the witness should be ready to take the stand soon.

"Bring him out to put on trial to the speculation," Mendoza said.

He said he wanted the case to finally end. He noted that he was 67 years old when the case began and he was now 81.

"It's unfair to the client, not just to me," he said.

The forfeiture case against Tan stemmed from the government's contention that the tycoon's assets were part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his family.

The companies involved are Data Gape Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery, Allied Banking Corp., Stanwood Finex, Himmel Industries, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings, Basilonia Realty and Grandcross Development Corp. and Shareholdings Inc.

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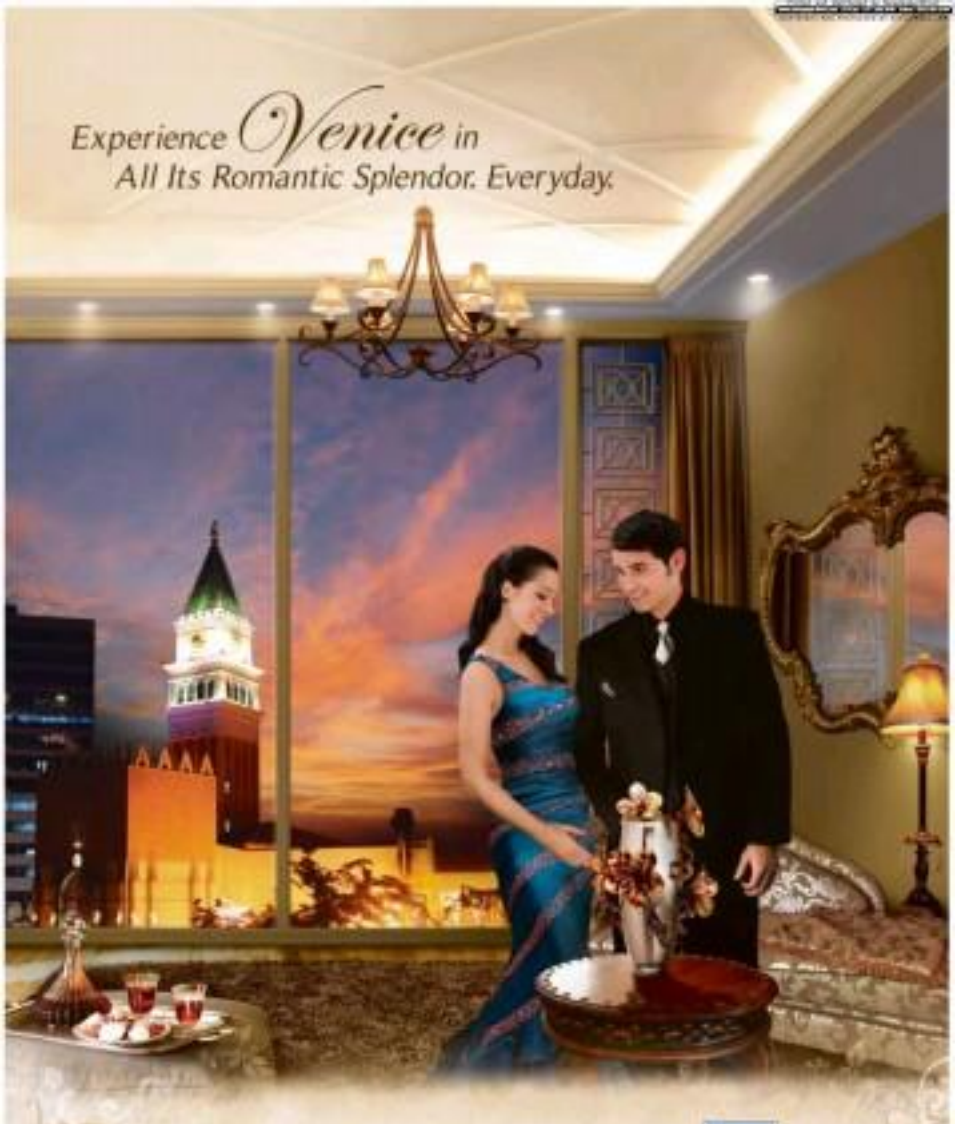

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DID YOU KNOW

OF THE TOTAL 132 new reported cases of MVs in the country in January, three were reported to be affiliated with ABS3, all three were males.

Zoleta-Nicolas, Inquirer Research

'FPIC pipeline has 2 other leaks'

SC orders immediate inspection; residents file ₱2-B damage suit

By Nikko Dizon

THE PRESIDENT of the West Tower Condominium Homeowners Association said yesterday that there were two more leaks in the decades-old pipeline of the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC), prompting the Supreme Court to order an immediate check of the structure.

"We are a little bit alarmed to know of two other leaks fronting West Tower and we want to know the situation on the ground," said Senior Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco, who presided over the preliminary conference on the residents' petition for a writ of kalikasan.

The other magistrates in the panel were Associate Justices Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura and Eduardo Abad Peralta.

Velasco said the Supreme Court, in an en banc session on Tuesday next week, would issue a resolution to formally order the inspection of the pipeline and verify the alleged leaks.

At the same time, he directed lawyers Mario Bautista and Lorna Kapunan, counsel for FPIC and the West Tower residents, respectively, to immediately arrange the conduct of the inspection.

In his nearly 15-minute video presentation before the justices, Roberto Dimayuga, the homeowners association president, said that two other leaks were discovered last October and these continued to release gasoline from the FPIC pipeline into the basement of the building in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City.

Dimayuga, an architect, said that one leak was near Capitolyo Street while the other was near the footbridge on Del Pilar Street.

He stressed that these were aside from the five gasoline leaks earlier discovered by experts from the University of the Philippines (UP).

Dimitros, meanwhile, told the justices that he was not aware of the other leaks as he pointed out that the pipeline had not been operational since October last year.

Velasco said that Dimayuga's revelation would affect FPIC's motion for the high tribunal to lift the temporary environment protection order (Tepo) it issued last year.

QC anticar theft operatives in trouble over jailbreak

METROBRIEFS

Bail approved for prime suspect in actor's slay

THE PRIMARY suspect in the killing of movie and TV actor John Apacible was granted temporary liberty yesterday after his bail was approved by Judge Kevin Vivo of Antipolo Regional Trial Court Branch 71. Apacible, 38, Barbara Mendoza, Santa, deputy police chief, said suspect Armando Rendia, an uncle of the victim, was then released out of the Metro Rizal Doctor's Hospital, where he had been confined due to high blood pressure. The 58-year-old actor, Enrique Rueda Apacible is said to have died after he was shot twice in the chest by his uncle inside the latter's room in Greenfield Subdivision, Santa, Rizal, early Sunday. The suspect immediately turned himself in to the police, claiming he acted in self-defense as the actor had struck him on the head and forced his way into the house to continue his attack. The shooting happened while the suspect and the actor were having drinks. Debates said they took the responsibility of filing the charges in court soon. If Apacible's mother did not want to bring charges against her brother.

Milo Calaja

Man shot dead in Makati

ACTIVISTS are now looking for two suspects who remain unidentified in the shooting of a 55-year-old man early Thursday morning in Makati City. PO3 Jayce Dandi of the Makati Police said Antonio Lacson, of Kiling Street, Pasay City, died on the spot due to ten gunshot wounds to the back. Police said they were looking at the possibility that the killing may have something to do with the victim's money lending business and for alleged involvement in the operation of an illegal numbers game. Police recovered empty shells of a caliber .45 gun at the crime scene. Initial investigation showed that the incident happened around 5 a.m. at the corner of Lilia and Evangelista Street in the barangay Bangkal. The victim was reportedly on board his motorcycle when two men suddenly appeared, blocked his path and shot him twice. The suspects then commandeered the motorcycle before fleeing. Witnesses claimed a third suspect served as a lookout, police said.

Nina D. Santos

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO SUSPECTED car robbers escaped from a holding cell of the District Anti-Carnapping Unit (Discar) of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) last week, prompting the city's police chief to place the head of the anti-carnapping unit under investigation.

At the same time, QCPD director Chief Supt. Benjamin Mascardo ordered reinstalled for the escapees who were identified as Nelson Bautersan and Bonito Tapay.

According to Mascardo, he has directed the QCPD District Investigation and Detention Management Division to conduct a pre-charge investigation of Discar chief Supt. Ferdinand Villaluna and his men.

He clarified, however, that Villaluna had not been relieved of his post.

"It's still under pre-charge investigation and I am confident Villaluna will be cleared," Mascardo said.

Tapay, one member of the anti-PO2 Michael Tuangson who was on duty on the date the two men escaped, was relieved pending the results of the investigation.

Mascardo said that Bautersan was reported missing on March 15 while Tapay escaped on March 16.

He added that when Bautersan escaped, he was about to be transferred to the city jail following the approval of their request for his commitment to the facility.

Mascardo commented that the could have prompted Bautersan to escape.

Tapay, on the other hand, disappeared while another detainee was being questioned by policemen.

Mascardo said that Tapay was arrested after he was caught in the act of installing some accessories taken from a stolen Honda Civic in another car, a Nissan Sentinel, with plate number TEC-416.

The Honda Civic (plate number NCP 1111) was recovered by Discar operatives on March 17 in Gloria II Subdivision, Batasan Pecong Town, Quezon City.

A check showed that it had been reported stolen the day before.

'FPIC pipeline has 2 other leaks'

From page A10

on that the company could operate the pipeline as part of the structural integrity test demanded by the court.

"We are inclined to grant your motion because the crux here so far conducted. We just want to be sure if there is truth to the allegations," Winnie told FPIC.

In November, the high court issued the Tepic, the equivalent of a temporary restraining order in environmental cases, after Nitec Tesoro sought to block a petition he a set of habitants.

The writ is a relief aimed at addressing threats to the environment or the violation of environmental laws. It is considered one of the "unprecedented rulings" under the rules of procedure for environmental cases that took effect in April last year.

Winnie explained to reporters that people in Barangay Bangkal may be affected if there are stalled other leaks, aside from the five grate-sized holes already plugged by FPIC, since the Supreme Court allows the operation of the pipeline as test its structural soundness.

"You already regard the operation of the pipeline but the moment you restore and if there are still leaks, it may affect the people's safety," Winnie said.

The lawyers agreed that reports from the DP Civil Engineering Department and the Mines and Geosciences of Geological Services would satisfy the inspection.

The 117-km-long FPIC pipeline, a portion of which is located several meters away from Nitec Tower, transports fuel from Batangas province to the Pandacan oil depots in Manila.

The stalled CDO government ordered its closure after it was found to be the source of the oil that had been leaking into the condominium basement since July.

The condominium was also shut down by the city government to ensure the safety of its residents. Last week, they announced that the repairing the building were to FPIC for remediation.

Yesterday, the residents filed a P2 billion damage suit against FPIC and other companies which they claimed were responsible for the oil leak.

The damage suit was filed with the Regional Trial Court.

Apart from FPIC, also named as respondents were First Gen Corp., the firms' board of directors and officers as well as officials of Shell and Chevron. With Nina G. Santos

Robbery rap dropped vs cop accused of raping vendor

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A MANILA City prosecutor has dismissed the robbery charge filed against a policeman who was also accused of raping a vendor right inside the headquarters of the Manila Police District (MPD) on United Nations Avenue.

Assistant City Prosecutor Mary Jane Pagligan said in her resolution the other day that she found the probable cause to indict Police Senior Inspector Jose Tan in connection with the victim's claim that he stole P4,000 in cash from her.

However, she formally recommended the filing of a charge of rape against the policeman who used to be assigned to the MPD District Intelligence Division (DID).

So full was on for his provisional liberty.

According to the prosecutor, the policeman was able to pressure three witnesses who testified that the complainant, a 30-year-old vendor, did not have any money with her at the time she was brought to the MPD headquarters.

Pagligan added that the complainant also failed to present proof that she was carrying P4,000 when she arrived at the police station.

Nevertheless, the assistant city prosecutor found probable cause to indict the victim's policeman for rape, as she noted that the elements of the alleged crime were all present.

"After consideration of the evidence and allegations of the complainant and the respondent, the undersigned finds probable cause to indict respondent [for] the crime of rape," she said.

Pagligan explained, "Since the first element, there is no doubt that the respondent is a man. On the second element, respondent had sexual intercourse with the complainant ... On the third element, force, threat and intimidation were present.

She cited a Supreme Court ruling which said, "In proving rape, it is not necessary that the act was committed with genital injury. In fact, a medical examination is not indispensable in a prosecution for rape." Pagligan was referring to the respondent's alleged use of a condom. A medico-legal examination of the victim had come up negative for the presence of sperm and genital laceration.

"The claimed respondents' witness to that complainant is a prostitute does not impede input for as long as the sexual intercourse was done against the will of the complainant. Further, the latter made by respondent and his companions could not enjoy the presumption of regularity in the performance of official duties as respondent was on duty as a desk officer and was not allowed to go outside but office and apprehend criminals," Pagligan said.

The vendor said that on Dec. 30 last year, she was on her way to church when Bautista accused her of vagrancy and insisted on taking her to the MPD headquarters for investigation.

She claimed that he took her inside the Integrity Task Force (ITF) office and threatened to jail her unless she would submit to him.

The vendor said that Bautista took her money and then raped her inside the ITF office.

Bautista, who went into hiding after the alleged rape, later surfaced and denied all the charges against him.

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Lie detector tests eyed for 10 cops in ransom probe

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TEN MANILA policemen facing an investigation over the disappearance of around P12 million in ransom money received from a group of kidnappers may be subjected to a lie detector test, according to a Manila Police District (MPD) official.

Chief Supt. Marvin Reyes of the MPD General Inspectorate Group (GIG) which is in charge of the investigation said although the results of the test would not be admissible in court, the information could still prove to be very useful.

"It would help administrative and justify some of the statements they gave us. It would help investigators get to the bottom of the running scenario theory," Reyes told the Inquirer yesterday.

He added that MPD officials investigating the case were prepared to "use every available tool to get at the truth."

The 10 policemen, all members of the MPD Station 5 in Ermita, Manila, carried out the follow-up operation that led to the arrest of Hashim Lopeza, the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping of a Filipino-Chinese trader, and seven of his cohorts. They were also the ones who recovered around P4.2 million out of the P15-million ransom the victim paid to the captors for his release.

"While they have the right to refuse to undergo the polygraph test, I do not think there is any reason why they should refuse to cooperate if they are telling the truth," the MPD GIG chief said.

At the same time, he said that investigators were planning to conduct a reenactment of the March 7 raid on the Riviera Mansion in Imus, where police rescue ground Lopeza and recovered the ransom paid by Malaysian businessman Chen Tong Yee.

"We will be conducting the reenactment based on the statements of Lopeza and the other arrested suspect, Feliando Gutierrez, but everything will still depend on whether the management of the Riviera Mansion would give us permission," Reyes added.

On Tuesday, the Manila City Prosecutor's Office filed before the Manila Regional Trial Court charges of qualified theft, violation of the antigrab and corrupt practices act, as well as obstruction of justice against five of the policemen involved in the raid—Senior Insp. Peter Severino, Police Officers 3 Ricardo Bautista, Jefferson Feliciano and Mike Ong-piansco, and PO2 Ramirez Domingo.

Reyes earlier said that there was a possibility that other police officials, the highest ranking of whom was a superintendent, would be included in the case along with Severino and his four subordinates.

15 killed anew in Syria crackdown

DARAA, Syria—Human rights activists said at least 15 people were killed on Wednesday in the volatile hinterland of Daraa, both in a wave of savage gunfire aimed at anger reportedly spread to neighboring towns.

Activists and residents said security forces opened fire on protesters outside the Omari mosque early in the day, after hundreds of people gathered overnight to prevent police from storming it.

A funeral for two of those killed on Wednesday also came under fire, activists said, and shooting continued sporadically during the day.

Wednesday's killings bring the death toll to 22 in Daraa, a main by heavy tribal city near the Jordanian border.

The town has been hit by daily protests for the past week against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, whose Baath party has ruled Syria for 40 years.

An AFP reporter saw two bodies in the city's hospital shortly after gunfire erupted on Wednesday afternoon around the mosque, where activists have been holed up for a week.

An 11-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when security forces allegedly opened fire on a funeral for two of those killed overnight, an activists said.

Activists in Daraa have given conflicting reports on the number killed on Tuesday.

One said at least nine people died in Wednesday's attack, including a child, a woman and two members of the security forces, and six more were killed in attacks on a funeral.

At least 13 were killed in the overnight attack on the mosque, and about five or six were shot dead during the funeral procession," said another.

Assad's government has blamed armed gangs for the Daraa killings, but analysts warn that the situation is turning increasingly volatile.

By Wednesday, the deep anger had begun to spread to neighboring areas.

Residents of Inkhil, 25 kilometers north of Daraa, reported that people killed in an unlawful demonstration in the town afternoon, while an activist said 2,000 people hit the streets in the nearby town of Ghariya.

Syria, a country infamous for its iron grip on security that is still under a 1963 emergency law banning demonstrations, is the latest state in the Middle East to witness an uprising against a long-standing autocratic regime.

State-run television reported that Assad had fired Daraa Governor Fayssal al-Ahmad Khalkoum, days after protesters burned down the local courthouse.

Damascus has accused foreign agencies of stirring up the unrest, and the official Sana news agency gave a different version of the overnight attack on the mosque.

"An armed gang after midnight attacked a medical team in an ambulance of the Omari mosque, killing a doctor, a paramedic and the driver," he has police intervened and made some arrests, Sana said.

There was no way to verify the reports, but an AFP correspondent saw subsequent ambulance convoys evacuating the wounded.

"It looks like they are going to close the streets (of the activists) today," said a visibly shaken witness after a volley of gunfire.

The protesters have not yet clearly been identified, and authorities did not use the term of being Salafists, an eastern branch of Sunni Islam.

State television aired footage of what it said was a stockpile of weapons inside the mosque.

While left in Damascus remained unaffected on Wednesday, Daraa's streets were tense and empty, with shops closed as security forces patrolled the 250,000-strong city.

Entrances to Daraa were sealed off, and vehicles granted access had to pass through two separate intelligence checkpoints manned by armed plainclothes forces. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Air strikes pound Libyan forces

WASHINGTON—The United States and its allies shifted on Wednesday to ferocious air strikes on Libyan ground forces, tanks and artillery, marking the second phase of a military campaign that drew this Persian Gulf desert city into the fight. It preceding from attacked positions in the rebel-held city of Misrata forced Moammar Gadhafi's troops to pull back for much of the day, residents said, but by nightfall his forces had renewed their attacks. Government tanks barricaded the city, in one instance firing a shell that landed 30 yards from a hospital door. In Tripoli, small bursts of antiaircraft fire sounded as warplanes streaked across the sky. US military officials said that the first stage of the military campaign, which began March 19, had succeeded in its goal of ensuring that Libya's largely destroyed Gadhafi's air defenses and air force, had made the skies safe for coalition warplanes. The allies were conducting stepped up attacks on ground troops, military officials said, without fear of being shot down. New York Times-News Service

Soldier pleads guilty to killing 3 Afghans for sport

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.—A soldier accused of killing Afghan civilians for sport was sentenced to 24 years in prison on Wednesday, after he pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against other defendants in the case. Spc. Jeremy Morlock, one of five soldiers from an Army Stryker brigade who are accused of staging combat situations to kill three civilians in Afghanistan last year, told the military judge presiding over the case, Lt. Col. Kwasi Hawks, that the shootings were neither self-defense nor accidental. He pleaded guilty to three counts, and Morlock told the judge at the start of a court-martial. The sentence, plea and agreement to testify followed an agreement Morlock and his lawyers negotiated with prosecutors in January. The typical sentence for the charges to which he pleaded guilty—including three charges of premeditated murder, conspiracy to commit murder and assault—is life in prison, with or without the possibility of parole. His lawyers say he could be eligible for parole in about seven years. New York Times-News Service

Washington control tower unresponsive to 2 planes

TWO passenger airliners landed at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington without clearance or guidance from the airport's control tower early on Wednesday, and officials were looking into the possibility that the air traffic controller on duty had fallen asleep. One of the planes, an American Airlines Boeing 737 from Dallas, approached the airport around midnight but aborted its landing and circled the airport after pilots got no response from the tower. About 15 minutes later, a United Airlines Airbus 320 from Chicago also tried unsuccessfully to establish contact with the tower. Both planes made contact with a ground tower that guided them in, and both landed safely, said Peter Pinedione, a National Transportation Safety Board spokesperson. New York Times-News Service

Anwar loses bid to exclude DNA evidence

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim suffered a setback in his sodomy trial on Wednesday as a court decided to accept DNA evidence that Anwar earlier rejected as inadmissible. The court had ruled that DNA-stained linens bottle, toothbrush and hand towel of Anwar's accuser could be used as evidence. Anwar's defense had exhausted its dismissal after an appeal by the prosecution which is using it to link him to his accuser. "It is clear that [Anwar's] application was lawful and the detention was for a lawful purpose," judge Zaleha Mohamed Yusof said. AFP

Bombing in Jerusalem kills 1, shatters calm

JERUSALEM—A bomb exploded at a crowded bus stop near Jerusalem's main bus station on Wednesday, killing one woman and injuring at least 26 other people. It was the worst attack in Jerusalem in four years, military officials said, shattering years of relative calm and prompting international condemnation.

The blast came amid escalating tensions along Israel's border with Gaza.

On Tuesday night and Wednesday, Palestinian militants fired rockets deep into southern Israel, and Israel responded with air strikes in Gaza. Early on Thursday, Israeli warplanes struck smuggling tunnels along the border of Gaza and Egypt, and they also hit a power transformer.

The spiraling violence pushed the already dim prospects of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations further away as talk to Israel turned to the need for Israeli action to restore the country's security.

The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, said terrorist elements had been "trying to test our resolve and the fortitude of our people."

"They will learn that the government, the IDF and the Israeli public have an iron will to defend the state and its citizens," he said on Wednesday evening in his first public response to the bombing. Using the acronym for the Israeli Defense Forces, he added, "We will act vigorously, responsibly and prudently to resolve to maintain the quiet and the security that have prevailed here over the long period."

Mayor Abed praised the Jerusalem bombing, as did the Popular Resistance Committees, another militant group that is considered close to Hamas, the Islamic organization that controls Gaza. Its group claimed responsibility but the attack.

The atmosphere changed with the killing earlier this month of an Israeli family including three children, by suspected Palestinian assailants in the West Bank settlement of Itamar. Israel criticized the more moderate Palestinian leadership in the West Bank at the time, accusing it of hesitating to condemn the murders and of indirectly encouraging violence by glorifying militant in schools, mosques and media.

Mahmoud Abbas, president of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, promptly condemned the Jerusalem bombing, as well as Israel's deadly actions in Gaza. New York Times-News Service

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'KLEPTOCRACY'

Gadhafi coerced firms into paying for Lockerbie

WASHINGTON—In 2009, top aides to Moammar Gadhafi called together 15 executives from global energy companies operating in Libya's oil fields and issued an extraordinary demand: Shell out the money for his country's $1.5-billion bill for its role in the downing of Pan Am Flight 103 and other terrorist attacks.

If the companies did not comply, the Libyan officials warned, there would be "serious consequences" for their oil leases, according to a state department summary of the meeting.

Many of these businesses balked, saying that covering Libya's legal settlements with victims' families for acts of terrorism was unthinkable, that some companies, including several based in the United States, appeared willing to give in to Libyan pressure and tanks what amounted to payoffs to keep doing business, according to industry executives, US officials and state department documents.

The episode and others like it, the officials said, reflect a Libyan culture rife with corruption, kickbacks, strong-arm tactics and political patronage since the EO-reported links with Gadhafi's government in 2009. As EO and international oil companies, telecommunications firms and construction moved into the Libyan market, they discovered Gadhafi or his loyalists often sought to extract millions of dollars in "signing bonuses" and "consultancy contracts"—or insisted the newcomer's sons get a piece of the action through shotgun partnerships.

"Libya is a kleptocracy in which the regime...strikes the oil Gadhafi family itself or its close political allies...has a direct stake in anything that happens, including in securities," a classified state department cable said in 2009, using the department's spelling of Gadhafi's.

The wealth that Gadhafi's family and his government accumulated with the help of international corporations in the years since the lifting of economic sanctions by the West have helped fortify his hold on his country. While the outcome of the military intervention under way by the US and allied countries is uncertain, Gadhafi's resources—including a stash of tens of billions of dollars in cash US officials believe he is using to pay soldiers, mercenaries and supporters—may help him avert, or at least delay, his removal from power.

The government not only exploited corporations eager to do business, but willing governments as well. Libya's banks apparently collected lucrative fees by helping him launder huge sums of money to several years in violation of international sanctions, according to a cable sent from Tripoli in cluded to a batch of classified documents obtained by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks. In 2009, the cable said, EO diplomats warned Libyan officials that its dealings with Iran were jeopardizing Libya's enhanced world standing for the sake of "potential short-term business gains."

A few years after trade sanctions were lifted, Gadhafi gave up his country's nuclear capabilities and pledged to renounce terrorism. US companies were hesitant to do business with Libya's government, officials said, but with an agreement on a settlement over Libya's role in the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, finally reached in 2008, the US economics department began to see itself as well-situated matchmakers for US businesses.

At least a dozen US corporations, including Boeing, Raytheon, Caterpillar, Occidental, Caterpillar and Halliburton, gained footholds, or sought to do so, in Libya this decade, administration and the Gadhafi government signed a new trade agreement, designed, according to Louis Crist, the US ambassador to Libya, to "broaden and deepen our bilateral economic relations."

Libya became no finds with entrepreneur Bernard Madoff, the New York financial manager who stole billions of dollars in a long-running Ponzi scheme, approached officials overseeing the country's $70 billion sovereign fund a few years ago about an "investment opportunity," according to a state department summary of the episode in 2010. "We did not accept," a Libyan official reported.

Gadhafi, the state department said, was personally involved in many business deals. He worked with hotel rights consortia, an oversight committee set up by the Libyan government to deal with business with foreign firms, and insisted on signing off on all contracts worth more than $200 million. He also learned how to hide money and investments in case sanctions were ever imposed again, as they recently have been.

Gadhafi and his family set up accounts to banks around the world that are in the names of members of Libyan tribes that remain loyal to his government, said Idris Abdulla Abed al-Senoor, a member of the exiled Libyan royal family who is familiar with many of Gadhafi's business dealings. Some accounts may have been frozen by Swiss, EU and other authorities, who have blocked access to tens of billions of dollars, Abed al-Senoor added. Gadhafi relatives acquired luxury hotels, condominiums and private parties with American properties.

When Gadhafi was not making the decisions, one of his sons—whom he has assumed to run real estate sections of the country's economy—often was, New York Times News Service

GADHAFI "has a direct stake in anything worth buying, selling or owning." AFP/File

Metro Manila Hills Communities Tree Planting

The staff of Ben Tan Ace Builders Inc.'s Metro Manila Hills Communities and HOAI's Planning Division recently spent a weekend planting potted saplings in the Hills Administration properties in Novaliches. Nine tree-bearing trees were planted in the areas of Metro Manila Hills, Metro Manila Hills Southbreeze, called Terraces, Promenade Heights, Residences de Francesca, and Victoria Alley. The beautifying exercise is a part of "Kalikasan Communities" commitment to maintaining the healthy green environment of Novaliches. Seen in the photo from left to right are (standing) Arch. Sonia Angeles III, Architects; Atty. Carol Roy, HOAI Senior Vice President and HOAI Communities Sales Head; Eng. Dennis Labao, Project Engineer; Mr. Robert Bautista, Sales Director; (Kneeling) Mrs. Orlando Cardeal, Project Director; and Arch. Ralph Bautista, Associate Project Architect.

WHAT'S INSIDE
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Azkals need win today vs Bangladesh

'IZAATI Barnabe (R) tries to deny pass Abdulhadi Albukhari (right) as Angel Morgoso (left) draws the Palestine defense in Wednesday's AFC Challenge Cup group qualifying match in Rangoon. The Azkals ended in a scoreless standoff. CHECKMAN PHOTOS/INQ.CON

By Cedelf F. Tapao

RANGOON—Forget about the promising start and the complicated scenarios. The Philippines' campaign to qualify in the AFC Challenge Cup now boils down to one final game.

Butch-weary set pumped up, the national boosters look to end a spot in the final tournament next year when they face a confident Bangladesh squad in their last match of group qualifying at the Aung San Stadium here.

Evening duel is the true semi-finals with two points after two draws, the Azkals' qualification hopes are on the 7:30 p.m. duel (5 p.m. in Manila) with the Bangladeshis, who are coming off a stunning 2-0 win over Myanmar Wednesday night.

A win—regardless of the margin and regardless of the result of the match between Palestine and Myanmar—will be enough for the Azkals.

Another draw will mean elimination for the Azkals and send Bangladesh through to the next round.

Only the top two teams here will advance to the next round to join India, Maldives, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan which have already qualified from their respective groups.

The Azkals had started brightly in the tournament by grabbing a 1-0 lead against the host Burmese side Monday before yielding a goal deep into injury time to settle for a 1-1 stalemate. They also battled to a scoreless draw against Palestine Wednesday.

Relaxing outside his room with several teammates at the Hotel Yangon Thursday

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Azkals need win vs surprising Bangladesh today

For page 4 of 29

team, skipper Ali Borromeo said the Azkals are ready for the challenge.

"We are all pumped up," said Borromeo. "Mentally, we are already there [for the match against Bangladesh]. We would have wanted to play today and get this over with."

Borromeo said the key will be putting the pressure early on Bangladesh and bagging an early goal.

"We have to play direct against them, whenever we get a corner kick, we want to score," said Borromeo. "We must put the pressure right away."

Meanwhile coach Hans Michael Weiss has expressed concern over the fatigue factor that could take its toll on his players.

Like Bangladesh, the Azkals will be playing their third match in five days in humid conditions here with temperatures ranging from 30 to 35 degrees Celsius.

The Azkals played in Ilam Baler in Mongolia last week in freezing weather.

The German coach is also wary of the Bangladesh threat, having watched them dispatching their way to the victory against Myanmar.

"Absolutely, the Bangladesh match was what we feel is important," said Weiss, still looking for the second victory after the 2-0 blanking of Mongolia in Bacolod last Feb. 9.

We are disciplined, Myanmar and Palestine are set for tough matches.

But Bangladesh cannot be underestimated. I think all four teams are in a similar level with advantages, that's why the tournament is decided on the last day."

The Azkals will also feel close for the second time after the previous tilt before they head to England to be with his pregnant wife.

Gier's absence could pave the way for Neil Gewer or James Aldrich return to the starting role.

Filipino-Finnish midfielder Jerry Lucena will be joining policy and feeling his way into the squad, is expected to make his second start together with Fil-Spanish attacker Angel Alloquero Custodio, who has vowed to put up an improved performance from the Palestine game.

Bangladesh's Goutam coach, Robert Rubric believes the Filipinos have the edge in playing at home.

"Our team is very tired," said Rubric. "The Philippines is a home side, they have better individual players. It will be very difficult. We have young players."

Similar to the Philippines, Bangladesh also needs a victory Rubric said.

"We need to get the win," said Rubric, dismissing the idea that his squad, which only needs a draw, will just sit back and defend for a stalemate. "All of Bangladesh's teams are to win. It is also big for the country."

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Bangladesh 1 1 0 4 +2
Philippines 0 1 1 1 0 -2
Mongolia 0 1 1 0 -2
MATCHES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Football Stadium)
Philippines vs Bangladesh
(Ilam Baler Stadium)
Laos vs Palestine vs Myanmar

Pacquiao-Marquez fight gathers steam

By Ray Lucas

WITH NO other champions contenders on the horizon, Juan Manuel Marquez may yet get a third crack at ground-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao.

Interviewed by Mexican-based sportswriter Raphael Cruz Tapi Sunk-Ajed Bob Arum hinted that a Pacquiao-Marquez trilogy makes the most sense financially, assuming that Pacquiao beats Shane Mosley on May 7 and Pacquiao-Marquez follows in early June.

"You come back really to Marquez," said Arum, who left yesterday for Las Vegas. "It does and a close loss to Marquez—that seems to be the most attractive fight."

In their first showdown in Las Vegas in 2004, Pacquiao scored four down-first-round knockdowns to salvage a draw with Pacquiao.

They met again in 2008, with Pacquiao prevailing by split decision with a knockdown of the Mexican to boot.

According to Arum, the Pacquiao-Marquez rematch is

MARQUEZ

Monday day gave him the most gross receipts in the fight unfolded to an electrifying atmosphere.

The 79-year-old Arum added that a Pacquiao-Marquez II "will also give time for either Timothy Bradley or Andre Berto to get their names out there, and was another fight or two. Otherwise, because the improvement over the rest of this year can probably be considered as the quiet opponent in 2012."

Arum explained that he didn't put Marquez ahead of Mosley simply because of economics.

"I didn't want to do that fight before Mosley because I'm thinking out to this real audience on CBS. So I needed an English-speaking opponent."

The only problem that may arise is the catch weight for the fight and how much blue part is going to get.

Pacquiao now fights at 147 pounds, while Marquez holds court at 135 lb. When Marquez fought himself over at a catch weight of 140 last year, the Mexican appeared sluggish and was beaten by the American.

HANNY Pacquiao does a stretching routine with conditioning expert Alex Arroyo.

Gier leaves to be with pregnant wife

[illegible]—thanks venue fan.

With victory home, Rob Gier packed his bags here and headed back to England Thursday to be with wife Emma, who is having a delicate pregnancy with their first child.

The battle-tested defender of the national football team played the first two games of the Azkals, which both ended in draws, in the AFC Challenge Cup group qualifying stage here.

"It wasn't an easy situation at all," said the 30-year-old referring to his departure from the squad at this crucial critical moment.

Gier was instrumental in keeping Myanmar and Palestine at bay.

The 11-year-old Gier worked for a contract overdose, after spending the past five years playing in the professional level, which included a stint with Wimbledon in England's second-tier league 11 years ago.

Several members of the squad tried to convince Gier to stay for the last match.

"Rob is one of the most experienced players in the team. His presence is always a boost for us," said skipper Ali Borromeo. Gabriel Tapas

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Tabuena, Pucay keep Top 20 spots

NEW DELHI—Rookie pro Miguel Tabuena and veteran compatriot Mike Pucay stayed in contention for top-20 finishes after three rounds of the $300,000 Volt Open at the Delhi Golf Club Thursday.

The Philippine duo shot a 1-under-par 71 while Pucay, 40, matched par 72 in their joined-at-the-eight-start beginning (10th place with 54 holes total) of four-under 212.

Sikkhar of Bangladesh broke out of a three-way deadlock to take a two-stroke lead with a 67 and a 14-under 203 aggregate.

Tabuena, the Asian Games' silver medalist last year who is playing in his first professional event, had nine pars and a birdie on the 13th hole for a 71.

Pucay had a 34 coming out, then struggled with a 38 in the finished eight bogeys-par birdie-bogey finish.

The two Filipinos opened with identical 73s on the first round, a 71 for Tabuena's 72 in the second round.

Jaime Jose Sison

Elorde Memorial Awards tonight

FILIPINO KING sobriquet headed by Manny Pacquiao will be feted during the 11th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Boxing Awards Banquet of Champions at 7:00 p.m. today at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City.

Eight-division champion Pacquiao will be conferred the "Outstanding Athlete" award for his unparalleled achievements in and outside the ring, while world champions Ronnie Ocampo, Jeremy Bonsu and Jose Ashanon will be honored as Boxers of the Year.

Pacquiao will also serve as guest of honor and speaker, and lend The Champions of Champions, which will include 40 world and international titlists and 15 Philippine champions.

Among them are retired world champions led by Rene Barrientos, Flores Jr., Dodie Boy Penalosa and Rolando Navarrete.

Salanga, the WBO super bantamweight queen, and Pilita Gonzalez, world champion Gretchen Abanal are the women honorees.

The Antonio Elorde Management International and the Pinoy Boxing Foundation, led by Flash Elorde's wife Laura, will also give recognition to amateur boxers Alice Kate Aparri, the 2010 World Championship bronze medalist, and Mitchell Gabaday, the 2010 Asian Games gold medalist.

International referee Carlos Padilla Jr. will receive a special citation.

Tickets, which are priced at P1,000 per seat, are available at the Elorde Boxing Gym in Paco, Manila.

Switching promoters is legit business

INSIDE SPORTS
Bonnie Nathaniel(s)

[illegible]

On the Concepcion fight, the report we received from Mary stated that "Promoter must have not heard 5 round to ends-out fractures or an over-not until Feb. 3, 2010."

Obviously, that was essentially complied with because Bonnie Angeles "Champ" Vargas as the can began ribbon in a big mask promotion on Feb. 13, 2010.

In fact, colleague Nicole Bracket reported after the Concepcion fight that Dr. Raul Canlas and the Philippine Games for Sports Medicine ruled the fracture that there was neither a fracture nor any bone of serious to-be-cured that "Bonnie kept a swelling caused by so-old trauma which occurred in a previous fight in [illegible]"—which was the Marbete fight on April 10, 2009 and that Gonzalez could fight against Concepcion.

Clearly, Donaire complied with the requirements of the SSAC for the 5-way and was cleared to fight.

• • •

Based on the information that has been made available to us, there appears to be no valid legal or contractual basis as against Donaire's right to sign up with Golden Boy. It can be questioned whether or not Donaire is under any legal duty to give Bonnie his biggest fight against Raymond "Mexican Monster" Mendoza and has offered him $600,000 for his mandatory defense.

But there again, it many is business and if Donaire got a really good deal from Golden Boy—even though the intentions are clearly suspect—who are we to deny Donaire his right of choice?

FILIPINO top seed Jason Patrombon returns a forehand to Luis Patino of Mexico in their match yesterday

See the matches starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center

22nd LANCER International Junior Tennis CHAMPIONSHIP Sidelights

THERE IS nothing to be ashamed about.

That's what national coach Richard Kraal said of the performance of the young Filipino netters as they got ready for the first round of the ongoing 22nd Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships.

We didn't get any of our Filipino participants, only Jayson Patrombon made the quarterfinals, and that's already a victory," he said. "So for the others, it was more of an experience for them to play against top Grade 1 and 2 players," said Kraal.

Kraal is referring to current number-seven Jayson Patrombon, Cebu's Jeremy Jurado, Cebu-based Filipino-Swedish Patrick Eriksson and Kyle Bongalonta of Davao.

The 14-year-old Patrombon, top participant for the Philippine team, faces Luis Patino with eight wins in the last qualifying playoffs held in Colombia. So does Jurado (14-2, 11-0) against Dominican Republic's Eli Oliver Jiez.

As for Jurado, "I felt that he had the chances, but the opponent just played well on his points. It's Jurado's first Grade 1 tournament and as a matter of fact, it was quite good exposure for him," said Kraal.

Meanwhile, the Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis championships is presented by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Philippine Tennis Association, International Tennis Federation, Philippine Sports Commission, Accel, Dunlop and Columbia will serve as a tuneup event for Japan Promotion Games to be held in the near future.

The world No. 5 might be in set to take part in new Philippine events in Thailand and another in India, where he made a very excited entrée.

LANCER TENNIS

Jeson ousts Mexican in 3 sets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP SEED Jeson Patrombon picked up his game after a lapse of concentration in the first set and handled our Luis Patino of Mexico, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, yesterday to gain the quarterfinals of the boys' singles in the 22nd Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The lean matchup Filipino blew a 4-1 lead in the opening set and Patino, the world No. 37, got back into the match with a finish in the seventh game before clinching the set by breaking serve after another break at the 11th game.

But the world No. 9 Patrombon dominated the second set and the match all but wound up when the 6-foot-2 Mexican asked for medical timeout before the third set and an ankle was applied on his cramping thigh.

"My focus suffered after leading 4-1 in the first set so I was so eager to score winners," said Patrombon in Filipino. "I guess I have to learn how to hold on to my lead and not be overconfident if I want to win the title."

Manny Torres, Patrombon's coach, said he expected Patino to put up a stiff fight and asked his ward to prepare for a three-set battle.

Patrombon will next face Nick Kyrgios of Australia, the same guy he defeated in the third round of the Malaysian leg last week, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4. Kyrgios advanced at the expense of American Robert Cid, 6-3, 6-0.

In the girls' singles, 15th seed Stephanie Nunez of the United States stunned Japanese top seed Mion Kato, 6-3, 6-3, to also reach the quarterfinals. She will next take on another upset winner, Romanian Elena Andreea Ciubay, the 11th seed who eliminated seventh pick Arsen Evelyn of Russia, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

Eriksson's draft frustrated ninth seed Sarah Forsythe of Turkey, 6-2, 6-1, while eighth seed Risa Ozaki of Japan outplayed 12th seed Carol Zhao of Canada, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Fourteenth seed Cecile Sorbi, 16th seed Alikeisha Sanoorsh take downed Ashleigh Barty of Australia, 7-5, 7-5, ret.

Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina again stunned a seeded foe, slipping past 10th pick Napatsakorn Sankaew of Thailand, 7-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Danilina, who clocked second seed Yui Hamaoi of Japan in the second round, will face fifth seed Elvira Alfgarin, a 6-1, 6-4 winner over ninth seed Ekaterina Sidelkovtseva of Russia.

In the boys' doubles, Filipino-Japanese Justine Mendoza partnered with Thailand's Worit Sombatcharoek to oust Australians Luke Saville and Joey Bertrand, 6-0, 7-6 (11-9).

Serna-Flaviere Pontecorvo and Hong Kong's Guilherme Ip advanced by default to the second round of the girls' doubles over Kazakhstan Anna Danilina and Ukraine's Polina Lyna.

SPORTSWATCH

Big Pasay derby fires off today

A fifth and 4th champion gamefowl breeders derby/invitational action today at the SMA. Special Event 3-Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit.

More than 150 fights will be held in the multi-tiered derby participated by Sagupaan Cockpit 2000 and hosted by Batangas sportsman Tony Casalo.

The long-time competitors include Pop Patrick Andrew, 2011 Pasay International Derby champ Manny Pacquiao, Ramon Marcaraeg, Vice Mayor Gene Abalos, Benjie Lim, former Rizal governor Jun Ynares, Quang Ang Chic Lim, Jun Bautista, the GMF group, Rep. Trixie Alonzo, Mayor Boboy Jaque Cruz and Antipas Mariquez.

Don't miss the hard-hitting action at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, Malate, Manila.

Watch the tournament highlights and final matches on RBN 4, April 10, 2011 (Sunday) from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM!

Nuggets edge league-leading Spurs

SPORTS

D-League: Cobra slithers past Junior Powerade

By Jasmine W. Payo

COBRA UROPPEI a 22-2 bomb in the third quarter and blasted Junior Powerade, 86-75, to grab the solo Group B lead in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup yesterday at the MOA Flying V throwdown.

The frontcourt threw another big performance from ace guard Paul Lee, who drilled in 25 points aside from picking up eight rebounds, three assists and four steals.

Kelsey Hermosura also helped the homecrew finish on top with a 2-0 record by firing 12 of his 20 markers from three-point range and dishing out four assists.

Further, Gio Grisanto nailed four dueces that thrown in the closing seconds as Shadowstar Pilar Killed Pacific Pipes' bid to grab a share of the Group A lead with a 72-69 decision.

Pacific Pipes had a shot at forging overtime but officials nullified Ben Mendez' game-tying triple after he stepped out of bounds with just 1.3 seconds left.

Shadowstar and Pacific Pipes teamed up tied at 1-1 with idle NLEX behind the 2-0 card of group leader Phoenix.

The Jessmen outscored the Tigers, 35-12, in the start of the second half to turn a slim 28-26 halftime edge into a 63-38 gap.

"It was part of the game, we got lucky," said Cobra coach Lawrence Chongson. "We had a bad first half, but we made up for it in the third quarter. It was about team play we tried to get the other guys involved."

Jhu Arbor also posted a double-double for the homecrew with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Grisanto finished with nine points, the last on two foul shots off Ato Manuel with 3.3 ticks left, on top of 12 rebounds, five assists and one block.

The Hits, built around varsity standouts from the Ateneo Chiefs, also drew a scare listed 20-point performance from Joshua Gurtiza and Abegail Dalisoay.

Texters clash with Beermen

Aces take on resurgent Bolts

By Jane Navarro

TALK 'N TEXT tries to grab the solo lead against struggling San Miguel Beer today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The rematch of the Philippine Cup Finals won by the Texters early last month is set at 7:30 p.m. with both teams seen to opposite sides of the standings.

TNT is hoping to break an tie for the lead with idle Smart Gilas Pilipinas at 5-1 while SMB is in the cellar at 1-5 after trailing in four matches by double-digit margins of the 97.

Alaska (4-2) tries to take sole third when the Aces tackle at 5 p.m. the Meralco Bolts, who have back-to-back wins in a 2-4 card.

Only the top six teams after the nine-game eliminations will advance to the next round until SMB is in great danger of missing the playoffs for the third time in a row.

The Beermen tried to cop former Sacramento Kings shooter Jason Davis in a bid to salvage their playoff bid but decided to keep reigning Import Arizona instead.

After the Tropang Texters, the Beermen will wrap up their stint against the 0-6tag Barangay and the Rain Or Shine Elasto Painters, two teams favored to advance to the next round.

The Bolts' 111-108 victory over the Powerade Tigers on Wednesday night has kept them in the hunt for a spot in the six-team playoff.

"We're still optimistic about our chances. Our fate is still in our hands," said Meralco coach Ryan Gregorio.

Their shutters, however, hinge on the performance of backcourt duo of Mac Cardona and Ian Mercado and their ability to control Alaska count leader Ln Tenorio.

The Aces dropped their second out of seven starts against the Tropang Texters in Cagayan De Oro last still remain in the upper tier of the standings in a tie with Barangay Ginebra.

PACIFIC Pipes' Markson Sabuduclutin blankets Shadowstar's Gerald Lopez during last night's D-League match. ALVIN KASIBA

Ikeda, pals show way in Thai Open

CHIHIRO IKEDA fired an eagle spiked, bogey-free 5-under par 67 to post a three-shot lead over ICTSI teammates Lovelyn Gonzaga and Dottie Ardina in the first round of the Thailand Ladies Open in Bangkok Wednesday.

Ikeda, the reigning SEA Games individual winner, used her 3-wood to keep the ball in play at the tight fairways of Bangkok Golf Club then came through with superb iron shots that set up birdies on Nos. 7, 11 and 13 inside 14 feet.

She then knocked down a 5-footer second shot from 179 yards to within five feet for an eagle on the par-5 17th to cap her flawless 33-32 card in the 54-hole tournament.

"Clothes played it according to plan, staying out of trouble with her 3-wood off the tee," said ICTSI team mentor Beng Lopez.

Gonzaga also eagled the 17th after gaining two birdies earlier as she rallied from a poor start to score a 70 like Ardina.

Coming off a gold medal win in the individual side of the recent Queen Sirikit Cup, Ardina missed two putts from six feet that would have given her solo second place although she earned an eight-footer for par on the 18th to finish with scores of 37-33.

Andie Ernest shot a 71, Indonesia's Jutanugarn matched par 72 while Pinnath carded a 74 to emerge the top Thai scorer in a tie with Jayen Agajas.

The Filipinos, whose campaign is sponsored by ICTSI, also showed the way to team play. Team 1 composed of Ikeda, Ardina and Agajas posted a seven-under 137 to lead Team 2 of Gonzaga, Ernest and Gabriella Cly by four.

Thailand was third with 148.

Finally, a PH passport for Smart Gilas' Douthit

By Jane Navarro

MARCUS DOUTHIT, the national team's crown of power, is now a documented Filipino.

Antipolo City Rep. Ardee Ynaz announced yesterday that Malacañang has now issued Republic Act 10148, the law granting Philippine citizenship to the 6-foot-10 Smart Gilas Pilipinas stalwart.

Pano said the receipt from the office of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa arrived yesterday, paving the way for Douthit to apply for a Philippine passport that would make him eligible to suit up for the national squad in this year's Fiba Asia Championship.

Douthit is a studyjeer for the Sanoa ole' debut to win the tournament in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 15 to 25, where the champion climbs the lone Asian slot to the 2012 London Olympics.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity. It will inspire me to play even better," said the 30-year-old Providence alum who was drafted by the LA Lakers in the 2004 NBA Draft.

Summer fencing unfolds at Celebrity Plaza April 5

SUMMER FENCING programs will be held at the Celebrity Sports Plaza and several schools from April 5 to May 27.

Organized by Fencers Domain Incorporated, the summer program comprises the beginner's class for participants 6 and up and will be held at Celebrity Sports Plaza in Alabang City on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The same will then visit Dilman Preparatory School in Quezon City from April 13 to May 27 (Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and St. Bridget School in Ayala Boulevard from April 11 to May 25.

Mary Grade School in Mandaluyong will host the final camp from April 14 to May 28 (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.).

Each camp will have a mini-tournament at the end, to serve as the final round-robin.

For details, call Peter Du at 0917-5250688, ask Ella.

Milo Checkmate listing opens at MCC HQ

REGISTRATION for the fifth sponsored Checkmate summer chess clinic for players 7 to 16 years old has opened at the MCC headquarter located at Don Celsenzo Corinthian Building 1, in Ortigas corner Emigdio Benitez, and in several schools in the metropolis and provinces. For inquiries, call 826-8500, 304-0190, 09-19-912-1480 or 0923-632-4318.

PBA: Here comes the character test

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenia

All THE PBA Commissioner's Cup gets into a crucial stretch this weekend, expect the crown at the top of the standings to latch the homestretch while those at the bottom try to scratch into the sixth and final playoff spot, no easier task expected it today.

The 10-10 tie of Smart Gilas to 8-4tag Derby Ace accentuates just Wednesday changed the equation a bit for the top-ten dues.

Talk 'N Text, Alaska and Barangay Ginebra have opportunities to fight for the top seed the tournament kitchen to the semifinals. Smart Gilas and TNT are tied at 5-1 while Alaska and Ginebra follow closely tied at 4-2.

Rain Or Shine (3-2) and B-Meg (3-4) are hoping to secure a solo fourth while remaining games and give the reeogned Meralco Bolts (2-4), who have won their last two games, Air21 (2-4), Powerade (2-5) and even San Miguel (2-4) a say in some scenario into the semi-round.

Import Gilas' shooter of holdings on to one of the rare top slots longer as shooters Marcus Douthit will not able to play in the homestretch for them, gunner versus Powerade, Hawkes and Meralco.

The semi-finish some of the national teams sputtered his ankle in the third quarter against the Grenadas.

Keep in mind that four teams won't make it to the semi-stage. The running pattern will be tens of elimination, a decisive phase not the the fans learned.

Quick starts, strong defensive rounds and the ability to turn around games will be the essential ingredients to win often.

At this point, the Ia and Dr as well as the individual standouts still be important. But where the losers and minds of the players and will be crucial to finish.

Survival or an early exception will be determined by which teams can get hearts beating as one and minds focused on a single goal.

* * *

SUBMARINE DEPARTMENT: In last Mondays column Abueg [illegible] I erroneously named Meralco rookie guard Shawn Mahinay as the import replaced by the prolific Champ Oquendo. The report that was replaced was Anthony Claxton. I mistook my error soon before Meralco team manager Virgil Villanueva summoned to me at the Araneta Coliseum after their win against Powerade last Wednesday. No excuse, Miss color. Mahinay is patiently employed as a member of the Bolts while Claxton might need to somewhere around the world wearing his skills for scores that seem his.

FilOil Preseason: Archers go sharper

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE showed last season how a young squad can transform into a contract contender.

And the Green Archers, according to coach Dindo Pumaren, have more to show this year with their young guns still in top form and the recruits expected to make a quick impact.

"Our players have visibly improved and we hope to have a better run this year," said Pumaren.

The Archers, a surprise UAAP semifinalist last season, kick off their summer campaign in the 2011 FilOil-Flying V Preseason Premier Cup starting on April 9.

"The players that we have are talented and are just need to keep improving as we go along," said Pumaren.

Overlooked last year with its rookie-laden lineup, La Salle advanced to the UAAP Final Four with a young roster led by Joseph Marata, Fatoi Salinda, Almond Vosotros, Jordan Tampus, Joshua Webb, Jiper Parades, Mesa Villanueva and Simon Atkins.

Rookie Teams, a 6-foot-5 Filipino-Canadian who started up for the national youth team, leads the La Salle rookies along with former San Beda high school standouts Ian Sara and Ryan Galladora.

St. Benilde coach Richard Del Rosario similarly finds his Blazers deserved just a glimpse of their potential in the NCAA last season.

The Blazers only finished seventh last year, but showed a promising talent in guard Carlo Lastimosa, the nephew of former PBA star Jojo Lastimosa who topped the 2010 NCAA Rookie of the Year plum.

"It's about meeting our potential this year," said Del Rosario.

The Blazers will also rely on Mark de Guzman, Tim McCoy, Robert Hayer, Ivan Sison, Jun Isit and Bobbie Matubis.

"Last year we showed glimpses of what we can do as a team," said Del Rosario.

The preseason summer league will pit 17 varsity squads led by three-time UAAP champion Ateneo and NCAA title-less Letrán. Tickets are available at SM Ticket outlets at 470-2222.

TEAM coaches and assistant coaches with NCAA Flying V Sports chairman Guillermo (left) and league commissioner Aric del Rosario during a recent coaches' billeting. Among the coaches who attended the billeting were Gary Espinas of Emilio Aguinaldo College, Bonnie Tan of Lyceum and Leo Austria of Adamson.

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BUSINESS

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Clark now AirAsia hub in PH B5
■ Gov't seen raising inflation forecast for 2011 /B7

BSP raises key rates by 25 basis points

Inflation expected to breach gov't cap of 3-5%

By Michelle V. Rosse

AFTER STICKING to a loose monetary policy for nearly two years, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday decided to finally raise its key rates by 25 basis points, exploiting the need to ease price pressures and keep inflation within manageable levels.

The BSP's Monetary Board raised the overnight borrowing and lending rates to 4.25 and 6 percent, respectively.

Since July 2009, the BSP kept its key rates at historic lows of 4 and 6 percent.

"The BSP admitted that it was compelled to hike key rates because its forecast this year could hit 5.1% percent, well above the official cap of between 3 and 5 percent.

"The Monetary Board's decision was based on signs of stronger and broadening inflation pressures. The latest baseline inflation forecasts now indicate that the 3-5 percent inflation range for 2011 could be at risk," Tetangco said.

General bank officials and private

(turn to B5)

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
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43.420

Shares slightly dip

SHARE PRICES yesterday almost closed flat amid their leading as investors held back to wait for the central bank's monetary policy move, which was announced late in the day.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) lost 13.04 points or 0.36 percent to

(turn to B5)

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SM Prime raises P5B from sale of 5-yr notes

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MALL OPERATOR SM Prime Holdings Inc. has raised P5 billion from the sale of five-year notes to fund its expansion for the year.

In a disclosure to the local bourse on Thursday, the company said it had successfully issued P5 billion worth of five-year floating rate notes.

The proceeds of the debt sale will be used to fund its going capital expenditure and other general corporate requirement.

The issue was solely arranged by First Ililnan Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of the Metrobank Group. The notes were bought by Allied Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, and Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

"The five-year floating rate notes (sold) is SM Prime's first capital market issuance for 2011. The very positive response of financial institutions to the debt issuance clearly manifests the market's confidence in SM Prime's credit worthiness, stability, and growth potential," SMPH president Hans Sy said.

This year, the country's largest mall developer plans to open three malls. Included in spots are SM City Masinag in Antipolo City, SM City San Fernando in Pampanga and SM City Olongapo in Zambales.

The company is also set to expand two of its existing malls, namely, SM City Davao in Southern Mindanao and SM City Sorsogon in Bicol.

By the end of the year, SMPH will have 45 malls nationwide with a floor area of 5.2 million square meters, including the Old malls in China.

The company's total floor area will reach 5.9 million square meters.

Last month, SMPH said its net profit grew by 12 percent to PT P billion in 2010 as robust local and offshore businesses cemented a double-digit rise in revenues.

SMPH's revenue for the year was 16 percent to P23.7 billion while cash flow—as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) —expanded by 14 percent to P15.9 billion for an Ebitda margin of 67 percent.

SMPH's 2010 results were largely aided by the strong economic performance and the record high level of personal consumption expenditure driven mainly by income earned by Filipinos abroad and shelter spending in the first half of the year.

Suit against foreign companies

LAST WEEK, the Supreme Court amended the Rules of Court on the service of summons on foreign private juridical entities in, in layman's language, corporations.

By way of background, summons is a writ issued by a court to a defendant ordering it to file its answer to a complaint. Upon proper service of summons, the court acquires jurisdiction over the defendant's person and the subject of the suit.

If the service is defective or does not comply with the procedural requirements, the validity of any order or judgment that may be rendered by the court in the case can be questioned.

For domestic corporations, the rules on service of summons are simple. It should be served on the defendant's last known address. In case it has moved out and did not leave a forwarding address, service may be made through publication.

This effectively resolves procedural questions because problematic if the defendant is a foreign business entity doing business in the country.

Depending on its business plans, that company may engage in an isolated transaction, i.e., it leaves as soon as the deal is completed, or establishes a physical presence, i.e., it puts up an office that will handle on a long term basis its activities in the country. The service process rules:

Coverage

The amended rules provide that "where the defendant is a foreign private juridical entity which has transacted business in the Philippines," service may be made in three ways.

First, on its resident agent designated in accordance with law for that purpose; second, if there is no such agent, on the government official designated by law to that effect, and third, on any of its officers or agents within the Philippines.

With the use of the phrase "has transacted business in the Philippines," it can be inferred that the tribunal refers to a company that has been issued a license to do business in the Philippines by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

That license, under SEC rules, is issued on condition, among others, that the company shall designate a resident agent who shall receive summons and other legal processes that may be served on it.

In the absence of such agent or upon the cessation of its operations in the Philippines, any summons or legal processes may be served on the SEC as if it was made on the corporation at its home office.

Authority

The tribunal's directive that, if there is no such agent, summons may be served "on the government official designated by law to that effect" is in order with Sec. 128 of the Corporation Code which states that the authority to receive summons on behalf of a foreign corporation rests with the SEC, not with any other government office or government official.

I do not recall any law having been enacted amending the same power to any other government office or government official.

The grant of authority to the SEC is understandable because it is the government office that gives the foreign company the license or key to lawfully operate in the Philippines.

Once the company's Articles of Incorporation and other significant corporate documents are submitted to the SEC, the latter is in the best position to determine where and how summons can best be served to (not on) resident agent in second or subsequent service.

It also helps that the SEC has links with its counterpart in other parts of the world such others it can coordinate or consult with on the service of summons on corporations within the latter's jurisdiction.

Registration

The amended rules also cover a situation where the foreign company "is not registered in the Philippines or has no resident agent."

In this instance, service may such other manner's pronounces, be made outside of the Philippines through any of the following means:

Personal service effected through the appropriate court in the foreign country with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs

Publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in the country where the defendant may be found and by serving a copy of the summons and the court order by registered mail at the last known address of the defendant

Facsimile or any recognized electronic means that could generate proof of service, and

Such other means as the court may in its discretion direct.

Except for the electronic process, which is relatively new and subject to digital technology, the rest are already known to law practitioners.

Some clarification though has to be made in connection with the tribunal's reference to foreign corporations that are "not registered in the Philippines."

The Corporation Code does not require foreign corporations to register with the SEC or any government agency to be able to operate in the country.

These corporations only have to apply for a license to transact business in the Philippines without having to go through the registration process in the SEC like ordinary domestic companies.

As long as a foreign corporation can prove through documents submitted to the immediate officials abroad that it has been given juridical personality by its own government, that corporate status is respected and no further recognition is required.

The business tolerated by the SEC depends on the nature of the presence they want to maintain here, or else as a branch office, representative or liaison office.

However, as it come has to be issued if a foreign corporation separately registers itself with the SEC because, by that action, it intends to be foreign in character and is transformed into a domestic corporation.

Hairsplitting? So, it's not. There are specific rights, duties and responsibilities that are given to corporations that are SEC registered and those issued a license to transact business here.

(For feedback, please write to ipolaris@inquirer.com.ph.)

The Rotary Club of Makati, Inc.
R.I. District 3830, Philippines

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be advised that at a Special Meeting conducted by the Rotary Club of Makati, Inc. held on 22 March 2011, more than a majority vote of its members present both in person and by proxies, voted to expel the following members effective on that date:

1. Juan J. Carlos, Jr.
2. Dionisio Donato T. Garciano

ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI INC.
(RCMI)
MRCFI Bldg., Camia St., Guadalupe Viejo,
Makati City
March 25, 2011

Group pushing for enactment into law of antismuggling bill

By Amy R. Remo

WHILE SUPPORTIVE of the government's renewed campaign against smuggling, the multisectoral Anti Trade Alliance believed this was not enough. It said the government need to enact the antismuggling bill into law to help stamp out smuggling in the country.

"Sir, we laud the administration, particularly the Bureau of Customs (BOC), for its effort to confiscate smuggled goods. However, smuggling continues to prosper. This only serves to show that smugglers are not scared of our enforcement agencies. It is either our current law on smuggling is not enough or the smugglers are so bold," said Anti-Trade executive director Marc Ellis Abistado.

The group, in its statement, was seeking the enactment of the anti-smuggling bill, or House Bill 5694, otherwise known as the Tariffs and Customs Code of the Philippines, introduced by Representatives Lorenzo R. Tañada III and Neptali M. Bonoan.

"The current administration should realize that in antismuggling efforts will be strengthened if the proposed legislative measure will be enacted into law," Abistado said.

The alliance said in the statement that it was "dissatisfied" when it found out that the said bill was not included in the administration's priority legislative program.

"If the current administration would like to set dramatic inroads from the margins of smuggling, it could do so by enacting the antismuggling bill into law," the group further stressed.

"We ask the government to re-

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Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.80736	1.80910
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From page B1

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HOW COACH RIO IS JUST LIKE HIS MOBILE BROADBAND CONNECTION

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

MRCFI

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that at a special meeting on the 19th February 2011, held at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, more than Two Thirds (2/3) of the members of the Makati Rotary Club Foundation Inc. (MRCFI), both in person and by proxies, elected a new set of Trustees, namely:

1. Cesar V. Campos
2. Roger K. Davis
3. Rafael G. Hechanova
4. Emmanuel O. Jeveloza
5. Edgar Knoll, Jr.
6. Reginald Alberto B. Natale
7. Jose M.R. Pena
8. Carlos S. Rufino
9. Richard C. Upton

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BUSINESS

PLDT Corporate Business Group meets with Cardinal Santos Medical Center & Lourdes Hospital Officers

PLDT Corporate Business Group (CBG) recently met with officials of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for a technology update held at PLDT Innolab in Mandaluyong City. The session was held to highlight the latest PLDT product for cloud computing, managed communication and data solutions.

Cardinal Santos Medical Center (CSMC) is one of the country's top-tier private medical centers. It has been the lead role in providing the best in diagnostics, round-the-clock, caring and setting the standards by continuously acquiring the latest medical technology and introducing the best medical technology in the country. On the other hand, located at Sta. Mesa, Manila, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (OLLH) is now being managed and operated by Asian Medical Hospital Managers Corporation (SMHMC). SMHMC will be investing at least P350 million on facilities and equipment for the hospital for the next five years. Both CSMC and OLLH are part of Metro Pacific Investment Corporation (MPIC) growing healthcare portfolio.

Present during the event are, from the left: PLDT Consultant Restrice Rivera, PLDT Relationship Manager Lucy Casas, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital IT Director Myrna Palisoc, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Systems Support Head Christine Enriquez, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Medical Management Director Mary Jane Cura, Cardinal Santos Medical Center CEO Alvin Diaz-Uno and PLDT VP & Head of Corporate Relationship Management Jay Lagdameo.

(From left) PLDT Head of Business Applications & Solutions Development Jun Datiquin, PLDT Product Manager Richard Chow, PLDT Product Specialist Oliver Reyes, PLDT Capability Management Specialist Rolando Pardo Carpio, PLDT Product Specialists Arleen Mercado & Ilene Gamot

(Inset) PLDT Product Specialist Jake Bueno.

Gov't set to issue PPP 'tool kits'

Officials hope to streamline infra work procedures

By Nico T. Clidoro

THE GOVERNMENT will soon issue "tool kits" for public-private partnerships (PPPs) to ease the rollout of projects, especially for line agencies and local government units (LGUs).

According to Socioeconomic Planning Sec. Ernesto Pernia, the so-called tool kits will include procedural guidelines and project templates.

"The PPP guidelines are actually guidelines for the PPP Center. That is, what's the process of accepting, who can they accept (project proposals) from, and then what to do," Pernia was quoted as saying in reporters.

The PPP Center, which is under the purview of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), is also studying how LGUs can really evaluate and roll out small-scale, replicable projects.

"There tends to be numerous proposals for small projects, such as abattoirs, bus terminals, public markets, and so on. We are not really looking at setting a ceiling for PPP proposals, but for some types, we hope to be able to have a manual and template so it could be easier for them (LGU) to do," Pernia said.

This way, LGUs need not solve repetitive projects in the PPP context, he added.

Eedric Pilabasa-Yotoc, executive director of PPP Center, said the government was reviewing its initial list of projects for PPP to determine whether other modes of procurement would be appropriate.

Project that fund themselves such as PPP are economic infrastructure rather than roads, rollout-related irrigation projects, Yotoc said. Social infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, are also candidates for PPP.

Projects that are not suited for PPP may be implemented through other means, such as direct public or private funding, joint ventures, build-operate-transfer schemes and revenue-development incentives.

"There may be some projects which are, for example, replicable at the local government level," Yotoc said. "We would have that to (the LGUs) since PPP projects entail about the same effort and preparation cost whether it's large or small. We can't handle everything through the PPP Center."

The Philippine government initially listed 70 projects under PPP. However, economic managers withheld the list shown to about 50 projects, which would be relisted to the private sector for bidding.

Smart bundles calls, SMS, Web services in one

By Paolo C. Montecillo

LOOKING TO UPDATE Smart Communications Inc. recently launched a promo that bundles unlimited text messaging (short messaging system), calls and Internet usage all in one "freebie."

Calling it "All-In 20," Smart said that the bundle was designed to suit those the needs of mobile users who want to avail of other services other than making calls or sending text messages. The offer is available to all Smart Buddy subscribers.

Smart users "to ramp up and add more value to its prepaid offer amid escalating price based competition," the telco said.

About 90 percent of Smart's 45 million subscribers are on prepaid.

"We are focusing our prepaid business on selling not uniquely designed, bundled services that suit the shifting ways with which mobile subscribers want choose to communicate," Smart wireless consumer division head Emelio Mojica said.

Smart Buddy subscribers that avail of the "All-In 20" promo will be able to send unlimited text messages to select Smart, Talk 'N' Text and Red Mobile subscribers.

The promo also allows 20 cents to other networks, and 20 minutes of on-net calling or mobile Internet browsing, for only P20 a day.

"When mobile subscribers need to share something, they no longer just rely on call—they post it on Facebook, or they 'tweet' about it," Mojica said.

With All-In 20, mobile subscribers may share and communicate information via SMS, voice, or through the Internet, "in a fixed price that suits their budget," he added.

The new promo is expected to help open up mobile Internet to a much broader market—a key component of the industry leader's strategy of offering mobile Internet in "sachets," Mojica said.

To avail of All-In 20, subscribers may register to the package by texting 20 to 6435. To enjoy the corresponding low rates, a subscriber may simply dial *6435 plus the 11 digit on-net number.

BUSINESS

Clark picked as AirAsia hub in PH

The Malaysian airline's 13th in the region

By Dwain L. Lazo

AIRASIA INC., the Philippine affiliate of Malaysia's AirAsia Group, has chosen Clark in Pampanga as its hub in the country, the company said in a statement yesterday.

The airline, which was launched in December 2010, will be basing its operations at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport when it starts operating international flights from the airport in the fourth quarter of this year.

Clark beat Iloilo International Airport as the former's 24 naval lease in Iloilo, Zambales, which was also bidding for the right to host the budget carrier's local operations.

Last year, AirAsia Berhad flew more than 10 million passengers to 55 destinations in 16 countries.

Tony Fernandes said that "cost" would be the primary consideration in the airline's choice of its Philippine hub.

"Our choice of Clark underlines the airline's commitment to developing transportation and tourism links outside Manila," AirAsia Inc. chief executive Maximare B. Hontiveros said. "This is part of our plan to contribute to the development of the country as a whole."

Clark will become the 13th hub of the AirAsia Group in the region, which currently includes AirAsia Inc., AirAsia Berhad, AirAsia Thailand and AirAsia Indonesia. The group's 11 current hubs are Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and Sibu in Malaysia; Bangkok, Phuket and Chiang Mai in Thailand, and Jakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Medan and Bali in Indonesia.

AirAsia Inc. is excited to start contributing to the economy of Clark and the rest of the country by boosting tourism and offering job opportunities to Filipinos," she added.

Clark is located north of Manila and is accessible to 23 million people from the Mabalacat Capital Region and Central and Northern Luzon.

It is also where the airline's sister company, Malaysia-based AirAsia Berhad, has been flying to and from Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu since 2005.

"We plan to make Clark the hub for flights to popular destinations including Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Korea and Japan," Hontiveros said. "Travel will become much easier and more affordable for tourists and overseas Filipino workers."

Rodmerson Alcindor O. Concepcion Jr. and Michael L. Romero own 60 percent of AirAsia Inc. in equal partnership. The remaining 40 percent is owned by AirAsia Berhad.

Globe ties up with GM Bank to serve more SMEs

By Michelle V. Bunoy

GLOBE TELECOM has forged a partnership deal with GM Bank, a rural bank pursuant to several joint promotions, to avail the multi-d'lar telco's business solutions to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in marketing.

With the partnership, companies that will be in need of capital to invest in IT services provided by Globe Business, the IT solutions unit of Globe, may apply with and get business loans from the bank.

Many SMEs are unaware of the benefits of technology. Some are afraid of the cost, but technology actually gives them opportunity to grow faster," Emmanuel Alfonso, head of the corporate and SME segments of Globe Business, said in a briefing yesterday.

The so-called "Negosyo Deals," the services being offered by Globe Business to SMEs, include custom IT solutions that are customized to the needs of specific customers.

One of the services offered is the inventory ordering system, which provides an electronic database of an enterprise's inventory. Another is the "Tracker GPS," which allows the tracking of deliveries.

"We hope to create the SME market ambassador with our customized solutions. SMEs are the driver of the country's economic growth, but many have yet to fully explore the opportunities that customized ICT solutions bring to their business processes," Alfonso said.

In the same briefing, Teresa Ermita H. GM Bank president and chief executive officer, announced that the bank was further expanding its operations in Luzon by putting up more branches in under-served areas.

The bank currently has 19 branches, and is planning to put up 10 branches and five banking offices in Luzon in the short term.

The majority of GM's clients are SMEs. Gonzalez said about 90 percent of GM's client base, portfolio, estimated at about P1.5 billion, was extended to SMEs.

GM said it would leverage its land network of 19 branches to expand its lending business and serve more SME clients.

Gov't debt stock seen to exceed ₱5T this year

By Ramond N. Dantiago

THE GOVERNMENT expects its debt stock to breach P5 trillion mark at P5.1.38 trillion by the end of this year even as it steps up efforts to make its financial obligations more manageable.

A Malacañang document shows, however, that the projected level of total outstanding debt for 2011 will settle at 55 percent of gross domestic product amid government expectations of continued growth.

According to state economic managers, the debt-to-GDP ratio this year will be lower than the 55.6 percent posted in 2010, 57.3 percent in 2009 and 57 percent in 2008.

Even then, the debt stock for the same year has been growing steadily from P4.222 trillion in 2008, P4.397 trillion in 2009, and P4.715 trillion in 2010.

To help improve the management of the country's debts, the Department of Finance is planning to create a debt-switch management unit.

Based on the Aquino administration's proposed medium-term debt path, the debt-to-GDP ratio would remain at 55 percent in 2012, but would steadily go down in the succeeding years to reach 47 percent in 2016.

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury show that the stock of outstanding debt reached P4.7.01 billion as of December 2010, decreasing by about P1 billion or less than 1 percent from the November level due to a strong peso and a net repayment of foreign debts.

Smart AllTxt Tunes15 mixes SMS and downloads

FOR ONLY P15, prepaid subscribers of Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) can already send text messages and download up to 5 songs into their mobile phones.

Wireless innovations leader Smart has launched yet another first - the AllTxt Tunes 15-package that combines affordable Value-Added Services (VAS) downloads with prepaid load credits, available to all Smart, Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers, this product provides 200 texts to Smart or Talk 'N Text, 20 texts to other networks and a choice of 5 MP3 songs from a list of available downloads. Aside from MP3 songs, AllTxt Tunes15 user may opt to use up VAS credits to get any combination of 5 downloads including fresh features as well as animations, wallpapers, polyphonics, monotones, picture messages and logos.

"We have always committed our prepaid load packages to best suit our users' varying lifestyles and usage habits," said Davide J. Iñigiza, head of Smart's Wireless Consumer Division. "AllTxt Tunes15 is for those who want a mix of messaging and fun, for a minimum amount. They get ample text credits for all networks and they get to choose from a wide selection of VAS content," he said.

Valid for 30 hours, the AllTxt Tunes 15 package can be purchased from over a million Smart load reseller-outlets nationwide. Regular load can also be converted by the subscriber from AllTxt Tunes15 by texting 4TV10 to 2827.

After purchasing or successfully registering to the service, subscriber will receive a list of available downloads. Upon request by subscriber simply texts key words from this list to download tunes and more from popular artists like Bamboo, Gloc-9, Sitsa and more.

Subscriber may also mix and match music downloads with mobile phone games, fancy or inspiring pictures and animations, images for cellphone personalization and much more. Subscriber has one whole day to select from the list of available downloads.

"In the past, we have seen just single downloads coming from around P5 to P15 and even P50 each. Now, for a very low amount, they get not just one but 5 downloads, while still having able to text with family and friends," added Iñigiza.

In addition to AllTxt Tunes15, Smart has an array of load products and bucket offers to cater to subscribers' different needs. To know more about these offers, log on to www.smart.com.ph or join Smart's official Facebook community at www.facebook.com/SmartCommunications.

NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS AWARDS INTEX TELECOM SYSTEMS

Nokia Siemens Networks, the world's leading telecommunications network provider, has awarded recently awarded its first Longest Partnership Award to Intex Telecom Systems, one of its 2nd channel partners in the Philippines since 1999. In photo, Peter Kahrs, head of indirect channels worldwide and Partner Management, Nokia Siemens Networks (left) presents the award to Erwin Lim, president and CEO of Intex Telecom Systems, assisted by Miguel Ferrer, managing director of Intex and Emil Santos.

A 'Big Hug' for all shapes and sizes

WHAT STARTED as a simple outing of clients at hotel-resting scheme, turned out to be an answer to emotionally response each sees for the needy. The staff behind PHD Philippines (an Omnicom Media Group company) opted to sell specially-designed statement T-shirts, as a means of generating donations money to help build housing units for Habitat for Humanity's "No More Home" project, in Bantama Village, Malabon.

In line with the worldwide PHD Big Hug Project, the team here in Manila thought of a way to literally spread as many hugs in the country - through selling hug-and colorful "Big Hug Housing Units Fund" t-shirts, with the aim to a square foot of housing unit. Simply put, fashion meets charity. Statements like "Have You Hugged Someone Today?" and "Hugs Are the Universal Medicine" adorned the shirts. The act of designs was a mixture of the team's playful talented individuals, headed by Mr. Michael Reynolds, PHD Ph's general manager. "The process of brainstorming to come up with media shirt designs was probably one of the most exciting tasks in this project. Endless ideas came up as our team exploited different angles and possibilities drawing on the universal concept of giving the world a big hug," said Reynolds. In the end, they agreed that the best way to convey their objective was through statements which revolve around "hugging", each words that would also give emphasis to the cause. Sofia Aago, PHD Ph's media executive and Cybill Guerrabian, creative officer of OMG (PH)'s advertising team, meticulously executed the art works as it would appear on the actual T-shirts; the designs representing the five houses.

The team included the words "I gave a big hug" in the inner right corner of each shirt to serve as a declaration of the wearer's support. "We used meaningful hug quotes, and also included to incorporate PHD colors to our campaign and the Big Hug concept, each shirt evolved into a hug from PHD to the wearer," added Hernando. The shirts were made available in 6 all shapes and sizes - a hug for everyone. Orders flocked the PHD PH office after some known personalities in show business and politics were seen sporting the Big Hug shirts on national TV.

"The statement shirts received appreciation from a diverse group of people. It is flattering to hear praises especially from the younger ones, but it is even heartwarming to know that these people bought the shirts knowing their money will help build a home," said Hernando, CEO and president of OMG Philippines.

Franchise guru named one of 10 Most Influential Filipinas

FILIPINA FRANCHISING guru Bing Gibal-Limjoco has been named one of the "10 Most Influential Filipinas of 2010" by the Female Standard (FS), the first Philippine website for women. Limjoco joins an elite list of Filipina world-class achievers that include Lea Salonga, Jessica Soho, Chatrie Peñapalenzo, and Gina Alcaraz-Tantoco, to name a few.

The country's vice chair of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) and chair of Franchise Asia 2011 topped the business category of FS's first-ever Women-to-Watch awards, which had empowering women as well as their inspiring stories of triumph, talent and determination. Limjoco also sits as CEO of Treasury Philippines, the company that helped a number of the country's successful franchises which include JolliBee, Jenah, Max's Restaurant, Goldilocks, The Generics Pharmacy, Home Corner, Plates and Prints, Pili Gen Haus, Waffle Time, Fruit Magic, Reyes Fluorescent, to name a few.

Limjoco was also commended by FS for always willing to pass on the secrets of her entrepreneurial success by being a regular speaker at business-oriented events. She is the second recognizee for Limjoco who recently bagged the "Yes Negosyo Filipina Entrepreneur Enterprise Excellence Category" award from the Philippine Center for Entrepreneur (PCE).

LIMJOCO

The website, which has some five million page-views, launched the Women-to-Watch Awards in conjunction with the International Women's Day last March 8. The other awardees include Ana Jalandoni, Stephen Cheng Pwee, Tweety de Leon, Liz Uy, and Dr. Raquel Reyes.

ZUMIC TIMOG AVENUE, QUEZON CITY BRANCH INAUGURATION

FOTON CONGRATULATES CITY OF VALENZUELA ON ITS 13TH YEAR

ALOHA FOR QUEZON CITY

DAVIES PAINTS ACHIEVES THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ISO CERTIFICATION

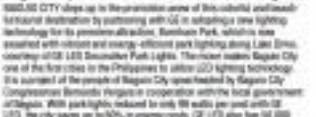
Innovatronix unveils Tronix PowerCore

FAB JONS FUN RUN TO PROTECT THE DOLPHINS

HERBCARE, NUTRIMAX SIGN AGREEMENT

Baguio City uses GE LED Decorative Park Lights

Smooth summer sips



Gov't seen raising inflation forecast in 2011

DBS expects rate to go beyond 3-5%

By Bernie W. Cuevas

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to raise its inflation forecast for the year as pressures such as soaring oil and food prices will likely push the rate of consumer price over 5 percent in the second half this year, according to DBS Bank.

The Singapore-based bank said in a new research note that inflationary pressures have intensified to an extent that the figure will go above the government's current target range of 3 percent to 5 percent.

"The central bank is likely to act to prevent inflation expectations from becoming less well anchored," DBS said.

"At 4.2 percent year-on-year (as of February), inflation is still within the official 3% target range, but, given the upward pressure on commodity prices, risks are clearly tilted to the upside," the bank added.

DBS said that with an unexpectedly large 1.1 percent month-on-month increase in the consumer price index in February, and inflationary pressures remaining high, there now is the threat that inflation rises and stays above 5 percent for the remainder of this year.

"Another 1.1 percent month-on-month increase, for example, would push annual inflation to 5.14 percent in March," it said.

"If the monthly increases in the coming months are just half that and in line with the average over the past six months, annual inflation would be 4.5 percent in March and April, and 5.2 percent in May," the bank said.

DBS forecasts that unless inflationary pressures ease out in far surprisingly benign in the second half, annual inflation will be above 5 percent in the second semester.

DBS believes that an upward revision in inflation targets is likely which would push up existing policy interest rates.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas kept its policy rate at record lows of 4 percent for overnight borrowing and 6 percent for overnight lending since July 2009 yesterday, when it raised interest rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 percent.

DBS said the direction of inflation and policy rates "is bad news for the local-currency government bond market and that bond yields are expected to remain under upward pressure.

"Despite benchmark 10-year government bond yields remain well below their 10-year average of 10.4 percent, which suggests a decreased premium and means that longer-term bond yields are vulnerable to negative surprises in inflation and policy rate outlook," the bank said.

"Climate change is serious business!"

Business Climate Action Summit

MARCH 29, 2011

8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA (MAKATI)

We can already see the serious effects of climate change.
If you want to know how to adapt and reduce your business operation's impact to the environment and make it more cost efficient, join the **Business Climate Action Summit** on March 29, 2011 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila (Makati), from 8 am to 5 pm.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Presentations and working sessions about proven environment sustainability projects in the areas of transport, energy, sustainable cities, solid waste management, agriculture and reforestation
- Presentation of the results of the 2011 Philippine Business Survey of Climate Initiatives by PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Sector Advisory Services, Inc.
- Commitment signing to the Business Climate Covenant

FLUSHY SPEAKER

Sec. Lucille Sering
Commissioner, Philippine Climate Change Commission

REGISTRATION FEE: PHP 2,500

For more information, please contact the following:

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Organized by: PBE, Philippine Business for the Environment, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila

In partnership with: DENR, GIZ

Sponsors: Honda, JBC, Ingress, Shell, Shangri-La, Mitsubishi

Tsunamis, mangroves and business

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THE RECENT devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan should push us to prepare for climate changes that threaten our lives and property.

We will show here how mangrove reforestation projects can be an effective and profitable way of addressing the increasing tsunami threats to the Philippines.

A tsunami or tidal wave is defined in Wikipedia as "a series of water waves caused by the displacement of a large volume of body of water, usually an ocean."

Tsunamis have special significance for the Philippines. "Consisting of 7,000 islands, experiencing frequent earthquakes, and being located on the Ring of Fire, the Philippines is extremely vulnerable to the damage brought about by tsunamis."

One way to address the tsunami problem is to use more mangroves.

These are "various kinds of trees up to medium height that grow in saline coastal sediment habitats in the tropics and sub-tropics".

Mangroves address two threats brought about by climate change.

The first threat comes from the ocean, like the tsunamis. Mangrove forest ecosystems mitigate the effects of tsunamis and strong storms on low lying coastal communities by decreasing wave and wind velocity.

The threat from the land involves flooding and soil erosion caused by deforestation. Mangroves can address these, too.

Investing in a mangrove reforestation project can also yield for the affected community financial returns that can go up to 200 times the cost incurred.

TDC and Agilarges, Quezon

Tambuyog Development Center (TDC), a key convenor of Alyansa Agrikultura, has shown how this can be done.

TDC has been implementing community-based coastal resource management (CB-CRM) systems for more than 15 years. It has also partnered with organizations in winning several awards in environmental conservation and enhancement.

As a result, TDC president Antonio Tamayo has been elected chair for Africa, concurrent Asian vice chair for the Southeast Asian Regional Hub for Peace (SeaHub).

TDC has a mangrove reforestation project potentially covering 900 hectares in 17 sites. One site is in Agilarges, Quezon. It covers 10 hectares of mangrove forests with a target of 20,000 mangrove trees.

The cost of undertaking such a project is P500,000. The first P350,000 was used to buy planting materials.

TDC estimates that with a reforested ecosystem, the fish population in the area should increase significantly.

The affected 120 fisher families will thus double their fish catch revenue from P4,000 to P8,000 per month. This will result in an additional income of P5.7 million for these families, or 16 times the initial investment.

The next P135,000 will be spent for four livelihood modules on mudcrab fattening. The 18 harvesting cycles are estimated to yield P2.9 million in income, or also 21 times the investment.

The remaining P125,000 will be used for the "Bantay Bagat Project". This involves guarding the area against illegal practices like dynamite fishing and other activities that will enhance the environment.

Philippine Business for Environment

This coming March 28, the Philippine Business for Environment (PBE) is conducting its second national conference at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati.

Its objectives are to solicit business organization support for promoting and enhancing the environment.

In its Davi resolutions, PBE looked solely at industrial projects. This complemented the Federation of Philippine Industries' (FPI) annual awarding of the best sustainable development projects from FPI's 38 industry associations. This was coordinated by the Garment Manufacturers Association of the Philippines.

This year, the PBE will go beyond industry by adding a sustainable agricultural and forestry component (SAFE) thrust. This is where the mangrove projects, as well as other agriculture and reforestation initiatives, will be offered for business participation.

Given the recent tsunamis in Japan, business organizations should more consider corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts to address climate change. The PBE conference offers this opportunity. For information on the mangrove project, please call Batchelog at 0908-9266862. For other projects, please call PBE Executive Director Lita Antonio at 6353870.

(The author is chair of Agrinetch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrinetch_phil@yahoo.com or telefax 8522123.)

Shares slightly dip

From page B1

drop at 3,661.54 points.

The broader all-shares index also dipped by 8.05 percent or 2.44 points to 2,896.95 points.

"The market was mostly looking ahead to the developments in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board meeting," AB Capital Securities analyst Maria Aileen Nacar said.

Meanwhile, foreign exits still have an air of sway over markets. Hindering sentiments in the Middle East become a threat to political and social stability," Nacar added.

Turnover weakened, with 778 million shares changing hands in a value of P2.9 billion, or less than the P3.52 billion worth of shares traded the day before.

Despite trading, 65 stocks declined, beating the 53 that gained.

Ayala Corp., one of the few issues that advanced, saw its shares inch up by 0.31 percent, or 1.20 pesos, to P388.60 apiece.

All sub-indices closed in the red, led by the mining and oil counters that fell by 1.34 percent or 392.56 points to 11,968.39 points.

Paolo G. Montecillo

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March 25 & 26, 2011

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Presidents of the NORTH

Manila North Tollways Corporation, Petron, Shangri-La, Shell, Cafe France, MMG, Victory Liner Inc., Ingress

BUSINESS

Federal Land in new push for $300-M complex

Metrobank group to build country's tallest hotel building

By Dazon L. Lucas

THE REAL estate arm of the Metrobank group has resumed work on a 19-hectare property development in Southern Global City in Tagaig—almost four years after plans were initially unveiled—because of the continued improvement in the country's economic prospects.

In a briefing yesterday, Federal Land Inc. president Alfred Ty said the company expects to spend as much as $300 million on the flagship facility of the project, which will be a mixed-use complex topped by a 60-story skyscraper.

Officials led by President Benigno S. Aquino III led the groundbreaking ceremony yesterday for the tower complex, which will house a Grand Hyatt Hotel that is expected to be the tallest hotel building in the country.

The plans for the project were first made public in 2007, but Ty said that the global financial crisis prompted the group to suspend implementation of the rollout plan.

"We were looking at the international market back then," he said, explaining that strong business from overseas clients at that point for a top-tier hotel and office building project to be profitable. "But now we've seen that the Philippines has survived the crisis pretty well so the potential is great."

Apart from the 400-room hotel—the second hospitality-related business of the Metrobank group in its portfolio—the complex will take offer residential units, as well as commercial space for lease, officials said.

The first phase of the project will be completed by 2014, with the rest of the 30-hectare development to be rolled out in phases after that, depending on market conditions.

According to Federal Land, the first six floors of the main skyscraper will house the hotel podium and lobby, while offices will occupy the eighth to 36th floors. The upper floors, meanwhile, will house luxury suites and other hotel amenities.

Ty said he expects the demand for 5-star hotel facilities to grow significantly over the next few years, giving enough business to the industry despite the presence of Shangri-La Hotel also being built in a nearby property.

Hyatt officials pointed out that, with only 2.3 million tourist arrivals a year, the potential of the Philippine tourism industry for growth is "substantial," given the stronger numbers regularly seen in neighboring countries.

Federal Land officials added that the unveiling of the hotel project will help boost the country's investment image.

During the briefing, Ty also said Federal Land expects the local real estate market to remain strong over the next few years, given the strong optimism being felt in the country across most sectors of the economy.

As such, the company's large land bank in Bonifacio Global City will provide it with a steady revenue stream as each development phase is completed and new rates are moved, he explained.

At the same time, he pointed out that Federal Land is one of the few property developers whose features are not tied down to the prospects of one specific location.

"If you look at our portfolio, our properties are spread out in various locations," Ty said. "We have projects in the Manila Bay area, in Mandaluyong, in Makati, and even in Cebu. That listed one is yet another location."

TOWER OF POWER

President Benigno Aquino III leads the unveiling of The Grand Hyatt Hotel project at the new Central Business district of Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. Mr. Aquino and Dr. George S.K. Ty chair of the Grand Hyatt Manila, flank the scale model of the hotel, which is expected to be the tallest of its kind in the Philippines.

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Lopez increases stake in PH solar industry

By Kris N. Nuno

THE LOPEZES' First Hydro group plans to increase investments in the solar power industry with the newly established First Philec Solar Solutions (FPSS) already exploring opportunities in solar installations here and abroad.

In a statement, First Hydro said that the group was bullish on the solar industry which has exhibited remarkable growth rates globally in the last decade.

Established in June last year, FPSS successfully completed its first commercial-scale solar photovoltaic installation in December 2010.

The first FPSS installation was at sister company Tiwi Philec Solar Corp. in Mo. Tenan, Batangas.

The installation now produces 75 kWp (kilowatt-peak) of electricity.

Last month, FPSS also signed a memorandum of understanding with another company for the construction of a solar power plant in Leyte.

The FPSS solar power plant was projected to deliver 2 megawatts of additional capacity, which can be increased to as much as 5 MW in the coming years.

The plant is to export power generated by the solar facility to the grid.

FPSS, which was put up as part of the Lopez group's expanding interests in renewable energy and solar technology, said it was working closely with the government to lessen the country's dependence on fossil fuels in energy resources.

"High technology like solar power is seen by the government as the next step to promote independence on the energy source and to advance economic growth. FPSS's vision is to become the leader in solar installations, not only in the Philippines but also in the region," the company added.

Sky Cable sets aside P1.5B for expansion

By Paolo D. Montecillo

SKY CABLE, a subsidiary of broadcast giant ABS-CBN Corp., said it would spend P1.5 billion this year to expand its network reach in more parts of the country.

The Lopez-led company also expects its broadband and boost its double in size this year as the company launches Internet plans that cater to specific segments of the market.

It likewise hopes to boost its cable television business with the addition of new subscribers, together with creating customers switching to higher-value digital accounts.

The company estimates that its cable subscriber base will grow to around 550,000 users by the end of the year from around 500,000 at the start of the year.

It also expects most of its existing subscribers to shift to digital accounts, which gives users high-definition channels.

Around 65 percent of Sky Cable subscribers are already on digital accounts. The company wants this percentage to increase to around 90 to 95 in renewal.

Last Monday, the company officially launched its new "Dboxed" Personal Video Recorder (PVR) service for its cable subscribers.

The device, which is similar to the "TiVo" digital video recorders available in the United States, allows users to record their favorite programs.

"Consumers addressed are the working class, the very busy ones who can't always catch up on the schedules of free TV or cable because of their demanding responsibilities," Sky Cable marketing head Rodrigo Montarello said.

The new service is available for a refundable deposit fee of P6,000 with a monthly fee of P399. These are charged on top of a user's existing cable account.

BUSINESS Friday

BPI opens facility for would-be franchisees

Entrepreneurs given a boost to start up trade

By Doris C. Dumlao

BULACAN: A business franchise awards is a daunting prospect. According to studies, only one of every four start-up enterprises is likely to succeed.

While there's no greater financial and psychological satisfaction than building your own empire, there is some no easier route to success for those entrepreneurs who wish to bypass the risk and sweat phase.

Through franchising, a start-up entrepreneur can replicate an improved business concept of another. Here, the chance of a number succeeding is over 90 percent.

With this in mind, BPI Family Bank recently rolled out the country's first credit facility for entrepreneurs who would prefer to start up "tried and tested" businesses.

Two-year loan

The country's largest thrift bank is offering potential franchisees a two-year loan facility worth at least P500,000.

In rolling out the pioneering credit facility, the lender has teamed up with the country's largest franchise associations, Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) and Association of Filipino-Franchisees Inc. (AMI).

BPI Family Bank president Jose Teodoro Limcaoco said franchising is a "solid" route for entrepreneurs.

"At the rate of our economy's growth and performance, we see that Filipinos would prioritize their income for their families by adding more income streams. Franchising is the best option for them," Limcaoco says.

Cedric Reyes, vice president and head of BPI Family's commercial loans division, says that under the bank's franchising loan facility, a borrower may pay only interest in the first six months of the loan.

Principal payments won't start until the seventh month, Reyes adds, explaining that the loan is designed to free up enough cash for a franchise business to grow.

Would-be franchisees may check out BPI Family's "KaNegosyo" at www.bpifamily.com.

Reyes says there's a six-point test that the applicant may answer online to determine eligibility for the "Ka-Negosyo" facility. Real estate, deposits or other assets may be used as collateral for the loan.

Solid assets

"What bank loans want you to finance solid assets. We're willing to finance even the working capital because we know the businesses modeled. When you go buy a franchise, the franchisor will give you a list of requirements) – franchise fee, inventory cost, working capital ... We're willing to finance 70 percent of that," Limcaoco says.

Lending to franchise businesses will also boost BPI Family's lending portfolio for small businesses, where margins are higher compared to top tier corporate portfolios, while taking on lower risk.

BPI, B2-1

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■ **First there was light,** now there is health care /B2-2

PHILIPS' THRUST FOR THE FUTURE

First there was light, now there is health care

By Theresa S. Santamiga

WHO DOES not recognize the brand Philips?

After 75 years of providing quality lighting solutions and consumer electronic products, "Philips" has become a household name in the Philippines.

And while Philips Electronics Philippines probably has cornered a considerable share of the market, particularly the lighting and consumer electronics segments, the company still has more battles to (still) march across for it to grow.

"We anticipate that business will be growing faster than ever, and I'm talking not single digit numbers here but, really good double digit numbers," says Rosario Bautista, chief executive officer of Philips Electronics Philippines.

Talking to reporters during Philips' 80th anniversary celebration in the country Gonzalez seems optimistic even the company's projections for this year.

"We're very bullish. As a unit for us first, we are investing a lot in our people (to help) grow our business across all sectors. Two years ago, we are more on a brand by (names), trying to see what's going to happen in the Philippine economy. But right now our (human resources department) is very busy trying to recruit people for sales, logistics, finance," he explains.

Gonzalez says that that optimism is anchored on increased confidence in the local economy and leadership under the Aquino administration.

Investors, he notes, are now looking more seriously at the Philippines as a place where they can really put their money. The confidence in the government is apparently now pushing the economy forward, he adds.

"It's (even) like, with the new presidency, there's much hope and confidence. The economy is shaping up. There are a lot of business opportunities—the construction business is booming, and more people want to (have) more consumer lifestyle products (for) their homes. People are very much in to wellness, getting healthy and are concerned about being long, fruitful lives," Gonzalez says.

"And as their incomes... we think we can MOR (from domain of consumers)... celebrities to lifestyle, whether it's health care, whether they need lighting products for their homes, offices and work places."

For this year, Philips is looking at expanding further its products to enter a greater chunk of the market and other outlets in the healthcare and wellness industry.

"We already have 111 years of history here and we want to grow more in the professional segment because we feel we have the best portfolio that is needed in the professional setting," Gonzalez said.

Philips currently divides its business units to three segments — lighting, consumer lifestyle, and healthcare.

Originally a lighting company, Philips branched out into the wider electronics business, joining the way for modern innovations such as the compact disc (CD), dvm disc, compact disc, DVD and Blu-ray technology.

Philips also has broadened its lighting portfolio to include a Consumer Luminaires line that features functional and stylish light fixtures for residential and professional applications.

Over the last couple of years, Philips has successfully introduced its healthcare solutions to the world market, offering advanced clinical care systems, home healthcare solutions, patient monitoring and imaging systems.

"Undoubtedly, we are the number one brand in consumer lifestyle (in the Philippines), and we want to further grow that number one position by growing our market share," Gonzalez says.

"We want to grow more from providing only consumer electronic products, and to move in to a healthy and well-being positioning, which means that Sonicare and Sony will not be our only consumer electronic products," he explains.

Philips currently has a total of 111 stores nationwide, which is expected to expand by around 20 more this year, as more companies start to take advantage of lighting solutions for the industrial area, particularly the use of so-called light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs and tubes.

Founded over a century ago in the Netherlands, Philips began selling lighting products and closed more sales deals in the Philippines in 1930.

As the local market scales and to grow, Philips opened an office in the Bonifacio Stopover district of Bonifacio in Manila in 1956, formally establishing its corporate presence in the country.

After 55 years, Philips has become one of the biggest multinational organizations in the country.

PHILIPS expands customer base in healthcare with its first ever cone beam computer tomography equipment

PHILIPS sells more than just lighting products

BPI opens facility....

Each franchisee has a time-tested business model. All you need to do is to buy and follow that model and you're 90 percent guaranteed to be successful. That is the forte of the country. People need to be entrepreneurs," Limcaoco says.

Why a two-year loan?

Based on the business model of successful franchisors, a two-year loan is sufficient for a franchisee to repay what it borrowed, Limcaoco says.

PDI chair emeritus Jaime Ongpin points out that when the economy is good, franchising is also good. But he adds that when economy is bad, franchising is even better.

This is because people who retire or are laid off from their jobs tend to return to their hometowns and seek opportunities in franchising, Lim says.

The franchisor retains 50 percent in franchising, Lim explains, is based on a study conducted by him (a franchisor, which looked at businesses in the 1980s to 1990s).

The study showed that 97 percent of businesses that are closed after 10 years were franchises, while only 25 percent of the stores and pop-type businesses were still around after a decade.

Franchising is but a cooperative of many people doing their own thing, but it has the ability to perform similar management," Lim says.

The premise is to own a store of, to do for businesses in selecting franchisees. He has to find out if the business is really successful to avoid being duplicated, Lim adds.

PDI has developed for its members the Fair Franchising Standards...a code of ethics ensuring that members commit themselves to conduct business in a fair set of provisions that will protect both franchisors and franchisees.

For its part, ABI also aims to professionalize, standardize and optimize the potential of Filipino businesses in general, and the field of franchise industry in particular. Both organizations offer a rich online resource on franchising.

Contrary to popular notion, Lim says a franchisee doesn't only pay royalty fees to franchisors. Theoretically he says, the fee is like a deposit which will be used to train the franchisee to be successful, and to extend marketing or operational support.

"The franchisee makes money only if you're successful through the royalty. That's why they charge you a percentage of the success fee (because) they add value if you make or cause it successful. And you have to ensure that the formula is followed," assures.

Why franchise?

A lot of businesses that we see in shopping malls these days can be acquired for P500,000 to P1.5 million, ABI president Bodie Tiling says.

These include franchisors of Product World, Aqua Bot, LeSA Pizza, Reyes Hairventure, Potato Corner and Gremlin (plasma cut).

Tiling claims that within two years, most franchisors are capable of paying back loans obtained in working capital.

Also, BSD Lim says a franchisor needs to devote not just money, he also has to be focused and dedicated.

Lim reveals that a start-up company needs to to put up 30 percent equity apart from the loan it secured from BPI Family.

Lim says that the franchisee must favor the commission in whatever he's setting up the business. The entrepreneur has to know those running the best few stations, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the food government seat.

People need to think about franchising as simply getting the likes of fast-food giants Jollibee or MacDonald's.

"That was 20 years ago," Lim says.

Over the years, franchising of retail and services has likewise expanded.

The service sector, Lim notes, is suitable to the local culture.

"This is where Filipinos succeed, whether it's spa or beauty salon, anything that requires skillful and personal service. And that commercials. I believe the next business to succeed is...

Qualities

In it website, PDI details the qualities that make for a good franchisee.

• **Solid learner.** Franchisee eager to learn will be receptive to the training and knowledge a franchisor will impart.

• **Effective communicator.** A franchisee with good communication skills will be effective in conveying ideas and policies to people in the course of work.

• **Ample experience.** Good set of business skills, such as marketing, sales or administrative expertise, will come in handy for a franchisee.

• **Financial capability.** The quality is essential in making a franchise fruitful. Moreover, the required money must be complemented with proper financial planning to run the business as if it belongs to you.

• **Possession of brand.** A prospective franchisee's knowledge about a product or service indicates whether he is really serious in getting a franchise.

• **Open to new ideas.** A good franchisee must be open to new ideas in order to make it easy for a franchisor to introduce changes in the system that can be beneficial for both.

• **Ready to follow.** A franchisee must be ready to follow prescribed set of rules and regulations contained in the franchise agreement. This is important in maintaining the proven business system developed by the franchisor.

• **Original thinker.** Though it is necessary for a franchisee to be a good follower, he should still be able to think for himself. However, it must be made clear that franchisees are to be consulted first at every stage of introducing a new change in the system.

Step by step

PDI also outlined the step-by-step approach to franchising. Ask yourself why you want to own a franchise, and look for opportunities that greatly interest you.

Entrepreneurs are also asked to research on the following:

• Have a complete understanding of the business.

• Check on the business reputation. Get much record of the franchisor.

• Determine the type of experience required in the business—the hours and personal commitment necessary to run the franchise.

• How much money is to be invested, and,

• The terms and conditions of a franchise agreement.

Get information on the franchisor by visiting stores and interviewing franchisees and existing franchisors.

Look into the product or service and determine what makes it stand out among other businesses, not about the various styles. Make sure you get a good site selection.

Check on the depth and quality of a franchisor's labor pool, making sure that it provides strong and qualified workforce. Determine the kind of training and support a franchisor will provide. Ensure that all kinds of support a franchisor is offering. That support will continue after the grand opening.

According to PDI, while the up-front cost of an investment may seem expensive, in the long run, it will prove beneficial. It is important to understand where the variable and marketing fees, it said.

Also, a franchisee must know his exit strategy if and when he decides to give up the franchise.

Distinguish if there are resale options for individual units and for the entire franchise.

In the past, lack of capital has hampered growth of franchising in the Philippines. But with BPI Family pioneering this kind of facility, Limcaoco is an "optimist" of franchising in the years ahead.

THE SEAMSTRESS carefully stitches the briefs for durability.

Jockey is not just . . .

The new line was a hit as it reached retailers' counters. The briefs have no allergens and the cushioned waistband does not leave marks on the skin.

Unlike the adult packaging which features models wooing the product, the new packaging for the boys' line shows smiling children in play clothes.

Addressing the fitness market, Jockey introduced a sports line, performance shirts and compression shorts for the men and sports bras for the women.

The apparel is layered with silver, which fights bacteria and treats odor and excess moisture.

Gonzaga says sales of the women's line increased by 25 percent when Jockey added more fashionable underpants and lace-cut panties, which don't create unsightly lines. These panties are held by a special tape to keep them snug. Jockey also recently introduced shape wear to smoothen flabs.

Retail shops

To strengthen its franchising unit, Gonzaga opened stand-alone shops in major malls in the country and will open seven more shops this year.

"We are the only integrated company, GFW, Manufacturing, Industries does everything from the yarn to the finished product. We control the yarn sales cutting. While other local brands produce their underpinnings in China, the Gonzagas take pride that a foreign brand is made in the Philippines.

"We are creating jobs for Filipinos," he says.

Jockey employs a workforce of 1,000. Four sewers to take care of its 100 uniformed sewers with the advantage of outsourcing in the country is that Jockey is able to control and train sewers quality control over their products.

Every single piece has an inspection sticker. While other brands do random inspection, each of Jockey's inspectors has his or her own identification number on the product so that if there's any defect in the product, the latter would be traced.

THE CUTTER makes the pattern for the briefs.

When the sewn inner banned the importation of goods to protect the local industries. Taiwan also was selected by Jockey International to become a licensee in 1958. The pineapple transformed their technology in hiding Jockey's signature elastic waistband. The then Lim cloth bought specialized machines to produce the cotton.

Tropanbo' soon later expanded the business.

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In order to set that up, the making of the product. Fortunately, it is to produce as Jockey uses fabrics that are made of combed cotton that has been cleaned of impurities and most stringent sanitation standards.

Quality control

The waistbands are made of the latex durable spandex, set latex which is made from rubber, as allergens.

"Other manufacturers use formaldehyde in the finishing process. Jockey does not want to control discharge. It's easier for humans and the environment," he says.

Gonzaga adds: "We double stitch and triple stitch the garments to make them more durable. Often is over on cost of sewing threads as the garments fall apart after a few washings. We make our garments last for years that it becomes a problem for us. There's not enough repeat buying of Jockey items because they are still good in our drawers."

To lure the modern Jockey fan, not for its styles of its famous white briefs. It still sells, introduce printed and colorful T-shirt and briefs.

Jockey licensed "Tropic-ana gets blend of white briefs. They want something funky and sexy to show off."

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Nueva Ecija state university to help entrepreneurs

By Kristine Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY, Philippines—A state university here has offered to assist entrepreneurs training in food-based industries to encourage them to come up with income-generating activities.

Dr. Ruben Sevilleja, president of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU), said entrepreneurs who want to take part in the school's technology business incubator program could initially be trained in the origin, economic size and gain in duration.

Sevilleja said the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) had given CLSU a P50-million grant to jumpstart the program.

The Food Processing Center of CLSU, which was put up in the 1980s under the government's Integrated Agricultural Production and Marketing Project (IAPMP), has been renovated to serve as the main training center for the program.

The CLSU center is screening applicants and plans to include at least 15 trainees in the program.

The training would cover the preparation of business plans, financial analysis, crafting of the marketing plan and identification of marketing outlets. Entrepreneurs will also be linked to potential fund sources.

Tips on processing, packaging and promotion of products will also be covered.

"We have already enlisted the support of experts in the science community here and businessmen in Central Luzon for this program. They will provide the expert technical assistance to the prospective entrepreneurs," Sevilleja said.

He said the program would eventually lead to an increase the number of small and medium scale industries related to food-based commodities, which are products of research and development activities of the CLSU and other members of the science community here.

Aside from the CLSU, other universities of the science community here that are engaged in food research and development are the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Freshwater Fish Research and Training Center of the Bureau Fish and Aquatic Resources, Freshwater Aquaculture Center, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Fruits and Vegetable Food Center and the provincial office of the DOST.

Sevilleja said the CLSU's agri-food-based technology business incubation program has its roots in the development and offering of curriculum programs in its agriculture, fisheries and related fields to convey interest of students in agriculture and its related fields. He said business and entrepreneurship have been incorporated to the revised curricula programs.

"Our students will have their on the job training in our technology business incubator complex. Hopefully, they can imbibe the knowledge and skills that will become them to become entrepreneurs in their respective localities," Sevilleja said.

Students, he said, would qualify for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) accreditation after their three-to-four-year course at the CLSU.

CLSU is just one of the institutions in Central Luzon that want to increase the number of SMEs in the region.

GOINGS-ON

Seminar on mind-setting for entrepreneurs set

The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on the Mind-setting of Successful Entrepreneurs. The seminar will teach participants the proper mindset and impart practical business skills to become a successful entrepreneur.

Topics to be covered include how to develop market research and how to spot new opportunities.

The late afternoon positive-narrative and power of the mind over money will also be discussed.

The seminar will be conducted on March 26, Saturday, from 10am to 5pm at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

For questions, call 4211633, 4201020, 5126222 and 4224011 or visit our website at www.goldentreasureskills.com

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SQ Vacations (www.sqvacations.com.ph) summer 2011 sale is taking an additional 5% to 10% off Asia and Pacific destinations.

All one has to do is go to www.bayantours.com, click on the promo deal button, and he or she is qualified to avail of an all-inclusive package tour for two to any of six most-sought after tourist destinations in the country.

Moreover, there is no purchase necessary for members to participate.

Visit www.bayantours.com for more details.

GMA New Media partners with BMW

GMA New Media Inc., Top Gear Philippines and BMW have joined forces for the interactive launch of the new BMW X3.

Through the wonders of Augmented Reality (AR), readers can explore the versatility of the BMW X3 in 3D as featured in Top Gear Philippines' March 2011 issue. The two-page spread includes a marker that would trigger the AR experience and the interactive scene. Some icons prod on and enable readers to take the vehicle for a ride.

Augmented reality provides a view of real-world elements that are enhanced by digital information, such as text, images, and videos. GMA NM, a multimedia technology solutions company, is taking the lead in advancing the use of AR technologies in the Philippines.

METRO NEW
Citizen's Call

- Overtakers on the road by a driver illegally using a "hoang wang" plates?
- Garbage dumped on your street outside your door?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Jaded by a little-known barangay program with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got shock in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and honking neighbors?
- A view on everyday life worthy to your neighborhood?
- Delightful/beautiful finds on your way to work?

JUST TEXT
to 4467
P.S.
INQUIRER

BUSINESS Friday

Jockey is not just about men's briefs

Brand does not want to be generic

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

FOR OVER 50 years, Jockey has dominated the men's underpantswear sector in the Philippines, and it isn't about to be caught short by the competition.

When Nikhil Gowrani joined the family business, GWI Manufacturing Industries, the head honcho for Jockey, he observed that most underwear brands would hold sales promotions in the second semester.

"It spoils the industry. Month after month, you can't seem to survive without a promotion. So the underwear makers, all the brands offer 'Buy three, get one' or 50 percent off," says the 28-year-old vice president.

It has come to a point that customers demand discounts and will not purchase underwear unless they get a good deal. No longer functional apparel, the underwear is now an impulse item.

Gowrani was also faced with another marketing challenge: to change the 90-plus-year perception of Jockey.

Like Colgate and Frigidaire, Jockey is listed in the Tagalog dictionary as a reference to briefs.

It's not unusual for customers to ask a saleslady how much does a "Jockey" cost when he refers to the briefs of another brand.

NIKHIL Gowrani beside the Jockey Man, the original mascot and logo of the brand.

Expansion mode

Through product development and rebranding, the company is quietly expanding its market profile and evolving its image as a lifestyle brand.

"In campaigns, we're not interested in giving large discounts and creating price wars. Instead we are coming up with fashionable and innovative products," he says.

In the past two years, Jockey classics and its traditional styles and introduced new ones.

"It's risky but it's the best way to grow," he says.

The success is measured by the double-digit growth in sales despite the fierce competition. Gowrani also attributes the sales increase to its new markets.

Jockey created a niche in premium briefs for boys from four to 14 years old who will hopefully be loyal to the brand.

"Let the young men grow up with Jockey. Once they get used to it, they will stick to it. It's a long-term solution but it will work."

JOCKEY BOY

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Lito Thelma Susan Sanjuan

Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Rio Francisco Prieto

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Hermès' secret garden bottled in perfume

Text and photos by Alex F. Vergara

BANGKOK—After going to such exotic locales as the Mediterranean coast of Tunisia, Nile River in Egypt, and Kerala in India to draw inspiration for the first three perfumes in Hermès' popular gardens series, French perfumer Jean-Claude Ellena didn't have to go far to produce his latest scent, Un Jardin Sur Le Toit. The inspiration was literally right above him: Hermès' rooftop garden in its Faubourg Saint-Honoré building in Paris.

"It was like coming home," said Ellena, a veteran perfumer and creative director of Hermès' perfume division. "The perfume's inspiration fits with my philosophy in life that happiness can be very close. At the same time, it emphasizes the importance the company puts on artistry."

Ellena and his colleagues at Hermès build

ILLUSTRATION on silk batik scarves now found in perfume box

Un Jardin Sur Le Toit is inspired by Hermès' rooftop garden in its Faubourg Saint-Honoré building in Paris

office in the building. It was also where most of its artisans were once housed. Hermès, which remains a family-owned corporation, has retained six flagship stores in Paris on the building's ground floor.

"The garden, which is just above my office, is where I go to read or to take breaks during summertime," said Ellena.

The garden was first created as the Hermès family, like most French families in World War II, began relying on subsistence farming to produce eaten food like potatoes. It evolved into an ornamental garden with a few fruit-bearing trees thrown in until after war's end.

To mark the Asian launch of Un Jardin Sur Le Toit (a garden on the rooftop), the fourth and perhaps last variant in the perfume series, Ellena, who described himself as the brand's in-house perfumer-composer, and Catherine Fulconis, president of Hermès Parfums, flew in Bangkok last week to present the product to regional journalists.

In keeping with Ellena's inspiration, the duo kicked off the event with a series of teasers atop Millennium Hilton's roof garden.

JEAN-CLAUDE Ellena and Catherine Fulconis, Hermès' perfume composer and president of perfumes division, respectively, meet with regional journalists at Millennium Hilton's rooftop garden.

Hermès' secret garden bottled in perfume

From page C1

den. Journalists first had a series of quick and informal workshops on planting roses and baking cakes using slices of apples and pears, which were later revealed, with rougeaths, as the main ingredient that make up Un Jardin Sur Le Toit.

Sweet, clean, crisp

When the product was finally unveiled, it revealed a sweet, crisp and clean aroma, which was far from cloying. Apples with hints of pears and magnolias were the dominant scent.

These plants, under the watering hands of Tunisia, the Hermès family's favorite gardener, grew in abundance on the Paris building's rooftop. Hermès also considers leading plants as a craftsman's work. He also drew parallels between the building and the hundreds of artisans who came and went through its doors.

The late Jean-Louis Dumas, then president of Hermès, once had apple, pear and magnolia trees taken from his beloved Normandy to be replanted in the rooftop garden.

"Allowing I drew inspiration from the garden, we devised our materials elsewhere to produce this perfume," Ellena clarified.

The product's packaging,

FALCONRI unveils Hermès' newest fragrance.

from the white box with illustrations of birds by Philippe Dumas to the transparent bottle, comes with an apple green accent.

Although this luxury venture, like those that came before it, isn't being marketed as a unisex fragrance, its packaging doesn't point for subcon it is meant. The men was intentional.

"Our fragrance has no gender," said Falconri. "Everyone can make his or her own choice. What we offer is for everyone. It's up to them to take it or leave it."

Ellena, who likens creating a scent to writing a book, also did away with market research and focus group discussions as he said his assistant worked on the perfume. It took him one week to come up with a flower (the scent) was three days for Un Jardin, as rediscovered and

ONLY time will tell if Un jardin Sur Le Toit would become another classic

three months to finally produce it. Instead, he drew heavily from inspiration and his senses.

"I find market research a waste of money," he said. "There are countless products out there that rely heavily on market research, but until last year's they launched. I've been in the industry for quite a long time, and I know quite well how to play with such tools."

Short film

A short film showing images of Hermès' rooftop garden in Stationary Saint Honore opened the unveiling, peppered with sentimental and, at times, poignant musings that reminded of Jean Louis Dumas modde's help but sometimes with him, the film's Chief Exec was dedicated to him.

"When we first presented the film and perfume to the family, there was no dedication yet," said Ellena. "But they were shocked to see the dedication and insist here. Bobbi Jang, Dumas, then president of the company, hated Ellena almost a decade ago to reinvigorate and emphasize the inspiration of events in bolstering Hermès' identity and bottom line.

"Before he hired me, Hermès had no in-house perfumer," said Ellena. "Sitting on in-house perfumer is practically nowhere the brand's scents was his but big decision."

Apart from giving perfumer their due, Dumas' move also aligned the division with Hermès' other divisions in design of leather goods, accessories and ready-to-wear clothes. He probably couldn't have hired a better man. Despite his soft-as-snow conditioner, Ellena is grounded, available and open, as he talked about his latest baby as well as perfume's importance in everyday life.

"I don't care how it does," he said before breaking into laughter, when asked how he expects the product to stand out in a crowded field without the benefit of market research. "Before joining Hermès full-time, I made it clear that I don't want any of my creations to ended up all on it of market tests before they're launched. The decision is between the president and me. Otherwise, I'd rather not work."

He described his latest scents of inspiration as akin to coming home. Will it be the last in the garden series now that he has come home?

"Maybe," he said wistfully. "In fact, I was anxiously awaiting of putting a stop to the garden series a year ago because I felt it was becoming too commercial. That's the marketing people came and requested me to extend the series because it was selling very well."

It was only when he hit upon the idea of producing a scent inspired by Hermès' own garden that he finally said yes. The fact that the move was considered novel and hinted to surprise people, motivated Ellena to work double time.

"For me, a chemist is a perfume you can wear a long time, and still have something to say to you," he said. "It's also something that transcends the years. It's old-time to time."

To Ellena, a good perfume has the ability to persist as well as seduce.

"Wearing a fragrance is like painting on a proverbial wall around you," he said. "It's a way of asserting your personal space, a way to protect you. It's also a way to endure, as one is deservedly your scent. It's a kind of quite deputizing, on how you play it. The rest, of course, it up to you."

Hermès' flagship store in the Philippines is located at Greenbelt 3 in Makati.

ELLENA shares his thoughts with regional journalists in Bangkok

HERMÈS garden series now comes in fragrances

CREATE a hot bikini-statement. On scooter with Surplus board shorts topped with t-shirt for him and bikini bandeau top for her (left) summer visits have in these geometric print board shorts worn with tank top and shirt.

Summer fun at Surplus

SUMMER, it's summer, and for plus is the store to go to for fun season. As temperatures rise, board shorts and tank tops are good ways to have a fun day at the beach at your favorite summer places.

Board shorts in sunny stripes and geometric prints take you to fun and exotic summer places, as do bikinis, prints and tropical inland designs. Wears with tank tops, bikini and bandeau tops for ladies and muscle shirts for guys, these will make you stand out in the beach and beyond.

At the plant to go for summer, Surplus has great finds to complete your summer look, all at very affordable prices. There are flip flops at only P499.75, as well as microfiber towels for only P499. SM Advantage cardholders can also get fun scooters for only P1.00 from March 1 to April 30.

The summer collection is available at Surplus stores at most SM hypermalls. Surplus is also on Facebook—simply search Surplus Shop at Facebook.

DIDMETRIC-DESIGNED flip flops

SM ADVANTAGE cardholders can get flexible and handy scooters at 2 for P1.00 from March 1 to April 30.

Female entrepreneurs show the way for Women's Month

FOR MARCH, National Women's Month, Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation is holding an exhibit in at SM malls.

The touring exhibit presents the stories of five female entrepreneurs who have overcome poverty and become leaders and role models in their communities.

The exhibit, "Woman Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship," consists of photos and stories of women from five different Gifts and Graces NGO partners in Metro Manila.

The exhibit began at the SM Mall of Asia and SM Southmall on Saturday and is running at the SM Megamall and SM City North Edsa.

On weekends, Mirela Banda and Juliette Quimbo from Barangay 649 in Pasay, Manila, demonstrate their craft-making from recycled materials.

Rather, Gifts and Graces participated in the Procraft's Bright Powered Watches. Its booth was visited by President Aquino.

Gifts and Graces uses a market-based approach to help different skilled artisans breaking into handicraft, which are mostly women, to sustain livelihood programs.

Gifts and Graces provides a professional designer to develop arts and crafts; links communities with training providers to build capability, and employs its marketing expertise to sell the products to large corporations and through partner retailers such as Kultura and Rustan's.

Gifts and Graces expects to open its first retail store later this year.

This exhibit is hosted by Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation and supported by SM hypermalls through its SM Cares program.

PRISM bag

LAVENDER soy candle

VANILLA soy candle

PICNIC basket

PLAY! Intrecci a colorful pattern, designed by Francesca Cobeai for the Furla Talent Hub

RUBBER shows bags make for all-weather pieces.

CLASSIC black zip-over gets updated with studs and a retro clipper

ANOTHER version of the classic tote with an all-black vertical body with zippers that reveal studs

'Our bags are cross-generational—from young girls, to their mothers and grandmothers'

By Ingrid Chua Go

Furla's Giovanna Furlanetto talks about the Italian brand's longevity—and its plans for an increasingly global market

THE FALL/Winter 2011/2012 collection of Furla comes in three parts. The first collection is centered in seventeen with the brand's DNA, while the second and third are collections from the Furla Talent Hub—one in collaboration with Intimissi, and the other with textile designer Francesca Cobeai.

The pieces are inspired by the '70s, marrying classic and modern, geometry and color, with soft materials and structures.

Furla's handbags are designed with refined double handles, a standout in today's bags.

But this season's Furla totes are standard—but accessorized with studs and zippers that open to expand the bag, as this design feature isn't just decorative.

The color palette is vibrant and intense, with color block details on some bags.

Texture mags from your skin and Mongolian sheepskin, to ostrich leather and shearskin.

From the Talent Hub comes Furla's customized collaboration with designers Jean Carteaud Pablo Reyes of Love Moschino. The two designers drew inspiration from the Tarot cards.

Among the designs are the use of rope (symbol of fortune), cherubs, joy, and the lovemoon (sun/happiness, dreamers, courage). These ancient meanings come to life on high-tech textiles and materials.

One of the bestselling styles is the shopping tote, which comes in different sizes.

Another collection from the Furla Talent Hub comes from young textile designer Francesca Cobeai. Her design, studies at the University of Derby in England, and is passion for textile and color, led to this capsule collection entitled "a little bit Nelly" (Miss Thousand and One Nights). Consumed month-on-need to dress the collection in all-over high-tech leather or padded, reversible nylon.

During Milan Fashion Week, I sat down with Furla president Giovanna Furlanetto, who has been at the helm of the family-owned business for over a decade, to discuss bags and plans for the brand.

You're going into the production of bigger textile bags, perhaps also matching exotic skins?

Right now matching exotic leathers in the same bag—the result is just amazing. You will see in our next Spring/Summer Collection, it's actually something we have in mind—and we are testing it, with lizard and croc. As all-over croc bag has been done, but matching croc with tassel, maybe two croc tone, immediately enhances the shape and gives it a richness that successful pieces do—doesn't have anymore.

What is Furla's target market? And over the years of being with the family business, do you have anecdotes about the brand you can share?

Our effort is to expand the brand as cross-generational and I'm very proud that members of all ages wear bags of Furla because of our clean design and quality. The timeless shapes are there even for more mature consumers, because at the end of the day, they have higher buying power, and we make their choices with the background of knowledge that young people sometimes don't have. So to be able to continue both ages—both young girls and their mothers and maybe grandmothers—this is something I'm very proud of.

We have six are world in Furla, and during last year's final selection awards, there was a party with many people. One of our guests was a banker and his little girl, and he came to me and said to her daughter, "You know, this lady is from Furla," and I saw this tiny-tiny child's face light up, so I asked, "How do you know about Furla?" And she told me: "I always go with my grandmother."

Then I asked her, "What do you like about Furla?" And she said "Everything."

Another time, I was walking in the street in Bologna, my hometown. There I saw a Furla bag. It was being carried by a young girl, about 20, and it was vintage—a babe. I admired it, and she told me it was a Furla bag!

I introduced myself, and she said, "You know what, this is my mother's bag." So I said, "Does it look better because you wear it or beautifully?" I find faces getting old in such a beautiful way—it looked like it was bought six months ago!

I have a daughter, and whenever I can share something with her, it makes me feel younger, and it feels like the next generation gives credit to your work and your choices. And hopefully you transfer the taste and the quality to the next generation, as well.

Do you see any more plans to work with other designers?

We have a plan to work with a Hollywood designer. We have a special project for Saks Fifth Avenue in the US, where we are planning an incredible great turnover of the business. It will allow us to sites take advantage of his knowledge of the US market—he is very strong in ready-to-wear.

We will produce in one piece together. He is due to go to Bologna...actually I've seen who he is, that's realize still a secret. It shows we are a very open company, open to go forward with the DNA of our brand and values. We are a family-owned business, and are very proud of it.

We are now 90 years old, and still we are very open to supporting young creativity in art with the Talent Hub, and with this new project taking off soon for the UK.

Nowadays the markets are becoming incredibly global, so our sales will evolve from our emerging markets like Russia, China, India and also Brazil. So we feel the need to use creative team to have an exchange of multi-cultural views, and we will. We already have a girl from Asia in our Research and Development department.

I think it's admirable that you are open to welcoming new talent into the brand.

I think it has a lot to do with my personal interest in young people, with my interest of giving a chance to young creative people, both artists and designers. I'm also interested to work with this kind of open mind. Its our passion can provide what the market requires forever.

The company will be stronger, but it will happen only with different cultural visions, different age visions. I think we have to be open minded. Sometimes and always give a chance to someone else. The difficult thing is to combine innovative point of view and still be profitable for your soul.

As difficult a question as this may be, I must know: what is your favorite bag?

(Laughs) The Piper Bag is my favorite. I made this personally it comes in only two sizes. I think it's a bag you can carry from January to December. It's very comfortable to use both ways, as a shoulder bag or as a hand-carry bag. It's very simple but is strong. It's Furla!

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REALTYPE! woven leather body bag with bag design

CLUTCHES in various patterns

THE PIPER bag in leather is Furlanetto's own design and is due to arrive.

'70s vibe comes alive

CHIC DAYWEAR, soft luxe fabrics, eye-catching prints, and feminine plays inspired by a retro-bohemian mode characterize Dorothy Perkins' Spring Summer 2011 Collection.

Color palettes revolve around bright hues from greens and golds to flashes of aqua, earthy tones and even tinges of tan as to signify the colors of sand and sunlight. Even soft, loose blouses, silhouettes within a sophisticated edge, and lastly, the '70s feminine and vintage pieces have been assembled to inspire the pretty, laid-back look.

Dorothy Perkins also celebrates the essence of pretty feminine charm through clothes with a wardrobe-bed and relaxed cuts. Its collection is characterized by simple laid-back tops, knitted bottoms, dresses, and tops and jewelry of varying styles.

Lady-like georgette blouses with delicate pleats for instance, team up with simple '70s wide-legs jeans and block-heeled pinafores.

Structured dresses are body-flattering and ultra-chic. Women may get a feeling of bright geometric or butterfly prints in dresses that are comfortable. A belted bodice skirt is paired with sheer sleeves tops, flocked love-hearts and a contrived body bag.

Dorothy Perkins' delicate smock dress finds a curly frill edge and the designs fabric, which mixes with an animal print scarf, has smart waistline, Mobile and Boots pullout that carries body bag.

The collection has floral finishes. A bell-sleeved blouse is stylish and could match quirkish as a trendy Capri. Printers may also pair this romantic billowing bell-sleeve peasant blouse with a '70's A-line denim skirt and tuxedo slouch tote these trends is it goes from dating to dating or anytime of the day.

Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc. (RSSI) is the exclusive franchisee of Dorothy Perkins in the Philippines. Dorothy Perkins items are featured at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Magnolia, Robinsons Cybergate 3, Robinsons Galleria South, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Bacolod, Robinsons Cebu, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons Iloilo, Robinsons Tacloban, Robinsons Butuan, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Davao, Robinsons Gensan, Robinsons Pampanga, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Batangas, Robinsons Antipolo, Robinsons Las Piñas, Robinsons Bacoor, Robinsons Imus, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Robinsons Cabanatuan, Robinsons Tuguegarao, Robinsons Baguio, Robinsons Urdaneta, Robinsons Laoag, Robinsons Naga, Robinsons Legazpi, Robinsons Roxas, Robinsons Puerto Princesa, Robinsons Calamba, Robinsons Iligan, Robinsons Zamboanga, Robinsons Marikina, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Bacolod, Robinsons Cebu, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons Iloilo, Robinsons Tacloban, Robinsons Butuan, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Davao, Robinsons Gensan, Robinsons Pampanga, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Batangas, Robinsons Antipolo, Robinsons Las Piñas, Robinsons Bacoor, Robinsons Imus, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Robinsons Cabanatuan, Robinsons Tuguegarao, Robinsons Baguio, Robinsons Urdaneta, Robinsons Laoag, Robinsons Naga, Robinsons Legazpi, Robinsons Roxas, Robinsons Puerto Princesa, Robinsons Calamba, Robinsons Iligan, Robinsons Zamboanga, Robinsons Marikina, Robinsons Novaliches.

DOROTHY Perkins' eyelet georgette blouse, '70's wide-leg denim, sun visor satchel and jersey tote scarf

Learn new skills this summer at Slim's

SLIM'S Fashion & Arts School, Manila's most established fashion institution, has just announced schedules for short summer workshops.

Basic sewing techniques

The Basic Sewing Techniques workshop covers the techniques and skills each need to sew everything from soft furnishings (like cushions, aprons, tote bags), to simple garments like a shift dress. You'll learn the proper use of sewing machines and various stitches and sewing techniques. In your Slim's fashion, all exercises are hands-on. The basic sewing techniques workshop is every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 to 12, seven whole-day sessions, for P9,000.

Ladies' pants construction

This hands-on, focused workshop will teach you everything you need to know to create ladies' pants. This short course covers the drafting, pattern-making, and cutting of pants, adjusting patterns for different styles, and of course, will have you constructing and sewing a pair of pants on the last day. This workshop has a total of three which day sessions from April 11 to the first group, and from May 23 - 28 for the second group. Fee is P4,500.

SLIM'S Fashion & Arts School offers summer workshops.

Business side of fashion

While Filipinos are bursting with talent, sometimes budding designers struggle with the business side of things. Slim's has introduced workshops to cover the basics of getting into the fashion business, to help you turn your skills into real income. Topics include how to do concept and product development, costing and basic features, market analysis, branding, marketing and promotion, and distribution.

The workshop is offered in two modules: "The Business of Fashion I & II." While Module I presents a general and very informative overview (as mentioned above), Module II is a hands-on, practical guide. Students through running an actual business strategy plan, and prepare for eight hours/days. The Business of Fashion courses have different schedules and start dates, so head to call Slim's for details.

Call 687-2388 or 8873592, or visit Slim's at 2330 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), or check out www.slimsfashion.com. e-mail inquiries@slimsfashion.com.

Hot, Haute Summer by PARISIAN

Vibrant is the atmosphere for fashion pieces this summer, especially for shoes and bags. A burst of colors is heating up the scene! Choose the hue that does the best pick-me-up for you.

Love the way hot whites make big totes and wedges sizzle? Thrilled over citrus-y hobo bags and flowery totes? Excited over candy-colored and neon bright pumps and sandals? What about sexy nudes, bold blacks and dark chocolates? Add to that, a touch of nature with greens and natural materials like raffia and rope.

Sport them all this summer – every sunshiny day a new look!

Parisian offers the yummiest choices of shoes and bags. Summer fashion guaranteed to make you look hot.

Parisian is exclusively available at SM Department Stores.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Why some people are going for a 'Macky cut'

On Thursdays, they have their countercultural hair done—or whatever it is they want

MACKY ARNUELES at work in a customer at The Collective. Photo by Joey Alvero

By Maria Cosme
Contributor

NOT LONG ago my friend Joey Alvero was seated in my room, with his "Bio" window shades of old desk telescope and my mother's old hairdresser. He was to have his first haircut in six years and his hands gripped the arms of the chair as we watched clumps of his curly hair fall to the floor.

Before a hesitant comes that familiar resignation of looking up at the mirror and meeting the eyes of absolute disaster, but he finds not that time and once.

The hands that held the dark scissors and brush belonged to 21-year-old aspiring hairstylist Macky Angeles. What came out was a sweet one-sided cheer that they now call the "hairdo." Simple scissors shampoo, it was a transformation.

These days the two can be seen on Thursdays at the Black Book Design cove at The Collective in Makati... Joey behind the camera with his half-hair-half-none peeking out, and Macky with three inches of a staff on top, an undercut and several holding up scissors, both preparing to transform their hair and gently coach whatever people ask for.

I interview Macky with his self-described "little box" aesthetic sitting on the back stairs behind a row-story building in Cubao. I with bottles of Palo Pilsen.

Wearing a custom cell-tshirt and blue cap over his head and a pair of well-loved, beat-up sneakers, Macky is the avatar of art school in Brooklyn, getting pulled over in highways out of Virginia, and doing the big move back to Manila.

Macky has been cutting her own hair since she was 15.

Her first crack at it was when she chopped off her long hair into a pixie cut or a friend's birthday party. You could say that it hasn't been the same for her since—she's had shaved designs, lightning bolts, Mohawks and other tough-love experiences with her sweetness.

A couple of years back she got a life-break and her father made her wear a cap to dinner.

Another time she woke up one morning with a plastic sheet on her pillow with her hair dyed back to black caused by parental issues.

But the kid kept getting better, helping friends out with their hair.

TONE-ON-TONE emerald-green floral shrug with a flowing, see-through dress tied at the neck

CLOSER look at the shrug made with hand-dyed silk flowers

VERY feminine look in golden yellow, incorporating flowers

'70s proportion meets a '40s vision

Photos and Text by Ingrid Chua-Ee
Contributor

FREDA GIANNINI continued to seduce with Gucci's Fall/ Winter 2011-2012 collection. Jewel tones of amethyst, emerald, ruby and chrome Cerulean emulate out of Montreal's bright home from Gucci Spring/Summer 2011) figured prominently in earlier memory.

Pieces were created in '70s proportions and inspired by a vision of the '40s. Masculine accents alternated with effusive, frilly femininity and sensuality. There were jackets in velvet, coats with military detailing, extra-wide leg pants in lightweight subtle or in exclusive Bottish mélange tickets, and wider-brimmed fedoras.

There were presented with airy see-through chevron in chiffon and organza with bow detailing at the neck, some of which were complemented with cheap suede from hand-dyed silk flowers.

There were also fur and fur treatments within the collection, as seen on coats, collars and sleeves. Standouts for this season include the synthetic jacket paired with a bow shirt and military green trousers, and a rust-coloured python skirt in emerald paired with emerald-green fur coat.

Updates of classic Gucci bags also debuted, with the Bamboo created in 1970s in a semi-oval shape with spur closure, and the Jackie (after Jackie Onassis) now with a long and detachable shoulder strap.

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FUR figured prominently on the runway, not just in the more "neutral" colors like chocolate.

MASCULINE look with a sexy attitude—very Gucci

SENSUAL and flowing dress in black with a walking shrug of silk flowers

VERY masculine look—a soldier fashioned. Fedora, a black coat and polka-dot accents

UNUSUAL pairing in color, but this is part of Frida Giannini's magic.

Gucci also updates the classic Jackie O bag

Silk sheer pencil scarves for Gucci's Fall/Winter 2011-12 collection

Fluffy and pointed, a wonderful marriage of textures and materials

KIM JONES has a keen appreciation of style diverse for men's ready-to-wear studio under the artistic direction of Marc Jacobs, effective March 1.

Louis Vuitton appoints new head for men's ready-to-wear studio

AFTER FIVE years in the helm of Louis Vuitton's Men Ready-to-Wear Studio, under the artistic direction of Marc Jacobs since 1997, Paul Helbers is moving on to new projects.

During these five years, the Men Ready-to-Wear activity almost doubled, and represents today an important pillar of Louis Vuitton's Men activities. Yves Carcelle and Marc Jacobs have thanked Helbers for his contribution to Louis Vuitton's development.

Kim Jones has been appointed Men Ready-to-Wear Studio and Style director, under the artistic direction of Marc Jacobs, effective March 1.

Jones was creative director for Alfred Dunhill.

Born in 1979 in London, Jones graduated from Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, and presented his first catwalk collection at the London Fashion Week in 2003.

Alongside his own collections, Jones has designed and worked for a variety of companies, including Uniqlo, Mulberry, Alexander McQueen, Hugo Boss, Umbro and Topman.

Jones has contributed both as stylist and art director for magazines such as Branched Continued, Iverna Homme + Annick, or Magazine, New York Times T Magazine, Oblique, V Men, i-D, Pansies Homme and Fantastic Man.

He has been awarded Menswear Designer of the Year by the British Fashion Council in 2006 and in 2009.

KIM Jones

ANGELES stopping over in Cebu. Left, Jean Abarentos in her "Tall-dra."

Why some people are going for a 'Macky cut'

From page B1

Beginnings

Her opening professional venture into hairstyling started not too long ago at Contemporary Gallery when she was observing the stylist of her dreadlocked friend's head. As this stylist Black Basic Design worked past and asked if she'd like to have an event.

"I didn't know if it would work, or if people would want their hair done by someone who's not really licensed or professional," Macky said, "But I guess people like the way I cut hair in a wicked cut."

Macky's small DIY project has slowly picked up steam, bringing through an average of seven eager heads every Thursday night.

"I started at nothing—four long eyes, in a hundred bucks, to 350, we've probably not going to go over 200 or 300 'cause by then it's like urban expensive cut."

Without a designated space, Macky takes appointments outside of her Cubao area.

Doing a side summit, I ran for my first Macky haircut in Joey's studio apartment, asking to be saved from the cut I had last gotten from a very cheap hair salon. The salon person who cut my hair just a week ago faithfully cuts a food bagel putting my hair on the middle, very much against the brows.

I told Macky I needed a trim. I had explained that to the salon the week before. The big, unsurprising difference was that Macky understood me immediately.

My hair is full over Joey's apartment as I snatched a replay of "Back to the Future" on TV without even feeling I needed to glance at a mirror to make sure the cut was warmed.

After a short cut of less than 30 minutes, I walked over to Joey's bathroom mirror. I saw, in that small rectangle, the trim that I had pictured. It was just right, but memory served as many handy that had made appointments to say about style-born boy. There was neither a bowl nor any resulting disaster, it was like those moments in board games when someone tries to get what you mean without you giving them the exact term and they get it right off the box.

Go-to hair-saver

Certainly, frustrated salon goers come to Macky with the same sentiment. The scene to understand exactly the frustration of those whose explanations of hair styles to be disappointingly lost in translation, whether they're 16, 27 or to be sweet.

"They can come to me with whatever hair style they want to have; I really like it when people know what they want and go online and look up pics for what they want... get a grasp of what kind of style they're going for," Macky explained, using her hands clean on the rickety wooden planks of the bracket.

A lot of people look at Macky's hair and learn her to decide what kind of hair they should have.

"But then there are people who won't get their hair cut by me because they see my hair and then they're like, 'You're gonna do my head? I'm not a rocker!'"

Like hobbyist chefs who and Brazilian, Macky says she does research about hair all the time.

Still, there aren't a lot of short cuts in getting a bang of urban people wants and that's the times when it doesn't work as planned.

"I was doing some kind of Mohawk thing on Jess himself. Jess's hair and I are, culturally put it—like it's jelly," Macky says. "She liked it anyway though."

But really, it's not just about the straightforward stuff. Macky also does a lot of braiding, and fans working from the line at the match strand how cool her hair was. Macky does long hair and more every day hair, too.

Her friend Jess walks in through the door carrying with Bubbe Hope hair that Macky had done for her recently.

"I'm pretty good with chippers now, but I also like cutting long hair," she explains her hair finishes.

"I mean I started out cutting my long hair. I had a fashion student. I had the bigger and I love hair for a long time. And then I had a Mohawk. And then I shaved my head."

The greatness that unites usually have for returning customers is probably less about the hairdo-for-an chatchat but about the value getting a cut worth a return. Safe to say, for Macky, people do return.

"I'll cut someone's hair and then they'll get back to me the next time I see them and be like 'a lot of people really like it! I've been telling them to get their hair cut by you.'"

At the heart of it, Macky's hair operation remains very much your small-local innovation.

"I want to be able to maybe leave selling or at least can I can give a more edge-up to fade," Macky says of the near future. "It's just a skill that I want to have, and if it all works out that'd be great. Right now I just like the feeling of giving someone nice hair and seeing they enjoy it."

You can find her Thursdays, 4-9 p.m., at The Collective, Maligaya dorm, Matern. Find www.mackaid.ph.

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Marriott Manila gears up for Environmental Awareness Month

Each April, Marriott celebrates "Environmental Awareness Month" to encourage environmentally responsible business operations, raise awareness of environmental issues and to involve associates in "green" efforts. To mark the day Marriott will participate in Earth Hour again from switching off unnecessary lights, the hotel will also encourage guests to turn off room lights for 60 minutes on Saturday, March 26, 2011.

Reflecting the mood of the Earth Hour, the hotel's two restaurants Marriott Café and Cru Steakhouse will have a special candle light dinner theme for the enthusiastic diners while The Lounge will have a special wine and cheese night with unplugged entertainment.

Associates (staff of the property were encouraged also to do the same in their accommodation with their friends and families. they were enthusiastic to switch off unnecessary equipments and to reduce the consumption of water, electricity, fuels and gas.

General Manager Richard Seal said: "We were very excited to participate in this global call. Through this campaign, we would like to show our commitment to make the world a better place for us and our future generations, raise awareness of environmental issues, and involve our guests and associates in green activities."

"This is a starting point to that it with the hotels. Our on 22nd April 2011 as Marriott International recognizes April as a dedicated 'Environmental Awareness Month' where we'll have various eco-friendly activities such as tree planting, nearby community clean up, daily energy saving practices and much more" added Mr. Seal.

According to Chief Engineer Mark Cravioto, to support the effort, his team has been doing ecological programs such as recycling used oil, controlling, re-cycling, leaks and changed water lines replacing all normal lamps with energy saving lamps.

By using these energy saving lamps, now we can save more than a thousand Kilowatt a day but it's not a matter of how much dollars we save. It's a matter of what we can do to make the earth a comfortable place to live for our next generations," explained Mark Cravioto.

Environmental Awareness Month is an annual event created by Marriott International. The main objective is to encourage households and business to reduce use of energy and participate in different efforts to protect the environment to raise awareness and to take action on all state change. for more information about Marriott's commitment to the environment visit: www.marriott.com/environment

The top 5 national beauty pageants in the Philippines

Macau art exhibit, regional bazaar set

WHAT'S UP

100 TCP artists and photographers will give visitors different perceptions of Macau attractions and experiences through art illustrations, drawings and digital images, presented by the Macau Government Trusted Office (MGTO), Philippines, March 29-31 at the atrium of SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

On show are the works of Ferdinand R. Cruz Jones, Van Jean Allen C. Barcos, Robert A. Alejandre, Benedicto D. Mendiola, Rosicler C. Dandaban and Jose Miguel T. Tejido.

The group went to Macau in December on a working trip sponsored by MGTO Philippines. Also at the venue will be Philippine-based trade representatives—Cebu Pacific, Golden Sky Travel, Mac Air Services, Philippine Airlines, Sparkle Holidays and Wintrade Travel—which will be offering affordable Macau tour packages. Visit www.macaotourism.gov.mo.

Meralco joins Earth Hour 2011

Company also has other environmental programs to sustain effort

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) once again promises to broadcast with the nation on the annual celebration Earth Day. Meralco has long been known to advocate and observe various period of taking care of the environment.

Meralco has programs that promote care for the environment like the air pollution control program that includes regular emission testing of all diesel-fed company vehicles, use of unleaded gasoline and a strict no-smoking policy in all Meralco facilities. Also, there is a containment clustering of the Meralco Compound project that is aligned with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' ECOMB Core Design Program.

Meralco also has a water conservation program where the company continuously provide engineering solutions to further the reduction of these excess water that is used and wasted. Namely, continuous maintaining and repair of pipes leaks, installation of aerator faucets and watermeter upgrade to limit use of water to necessary and comfort needs, water recycling in the cooling tower, and use of recycled water in watering plants and gardening requirements.

The company also has green engineering projects. As part of this, Meralco collaborated for the tree planting project of the Pasig City government through its PASIGreen City program, aims to raise areas of Caddie to support of the CENRO's Clean and Green Project.

Meralco's implementation of the provisions of the MOA signed with Manila Wastewater for its "Manila Bilanan" Project, meanwhile, ensures the planned conversion in running type of grit to corn-type accumulators in Barrio Kalawaan.

Meralco likewise has a solid waste segregation program that aims to achieve effective solid waste segregation, composting and recycling of garbage in all Meralco offices. With the help of a technology called Materials Recovery Facilities, reusable and recyclable wastes are brought for classification, cleaning and recycling, for by-products or re-sale after.

As a regular corporate sponsor to the Earth Hour, Meralco, again as of symbol of the company's head office, business centers, extension offices and service, Meralco also promotes the event through employee communication channels and encourages employees to participate as well. Those interested about, though, Meralco endorse that the participants to switch off their lights through the Earth Hour will be observed between.

Aliwan Fiesta bazaar

In celebration of the Aliwan Fiesta, a Shoppers Bazaar will be on Sotto Street, in front of the Aliw Theatre, CCP Complex, April 14-16. Organized by the Manila Broadcasting Company and Cultural Center of the Philippines, the bazaar aims to bring together the country's major festivals in a single venue to showcase regional products. Aliwan Fiesta hopes to provide the public with quality parasolong. Call 8852-8181 to 96.

Shirt design contest

Bordalan has launched Bordano Typography Tee Design contest wherein you can win as much as P300,000 in cash and gift checks. Open to all Filipino citizens 15 years old and above. The contest requires participants to complete a valid entry form available at all Bordalan branches. There is a "World Without Strangers" and should be designed using Adobe Photoshop or Macromedia Freehand.

The contest follows the success of Bordano's "World Without Strangers," a campaign that highlighted fashion without discrimination.

For flippants may submit up to three designs. Entries must be placed in a brown envelope containing two color printouts of each design, a CD containing a soft copy of the designs, a photocopy of the participant's ID showing date of birth and signature, and the accomplished entry form.

Mail to Bordano Marketing Dept., 170 F. Blumentritt corner San Luis, Brgy. Tibagan, San Juan City, or submit to any Bordano store. Deadline is on June 30. Winners will be announced July 31. Winning shirt will be featured online and in Bordano.

Baking classes for kids and teens

Sabrina Daez holds a one day cupcake corner workshop on March 26, 2-5 p.m. at The Maya Kitchen. She will also teach the 4-day Kids Gourmet Culinary Workshop for children 6-9 years old from April 5-8, 6:30 a.m. -10 noon.

For teens, The Maya Kitchen offers Young Peoples Cook In from April 12-15, 9 a.m. -12 p.m. There are only limited slots available. Enroll now and get a 10 percent early bird discount.

Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center is at 505 Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati. Visit www.themayakitchen.com or e-mail contactus@themayakitchen.com. Call 8927188 or 8923011 local 108.

Raw-food workshop

Raw-food group Superfood will be conducting the following workshops: Saturdays, 1-5 p.m., March 26, Introduction to raw foods and "superfoods"; April 16, raw superfood workshop with sprouting and fermenting; part 1, May 7, raw superfood workshop with sprouting and fermenting part 2; May 28, dehydrating workshop. Serene citizen, couple and student discounts apply; confirm for three sessions and attend the fourth one for free. Fee is P1,000 per workshop. Visit www.superlife.com.

Also sold in Superfood are items by raw-food advocate Aileen de Guzman like all-organic chia seeds, raw powdered maca, goji berries, golden berries and freeze-dried acai.

UNESCO National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) Director-General Irina Bokova (second from right) will visit the Philippines for a series of cultural meetings, March 23-26. The photo shows her with Unesco Commissioner Corlito Quintos Alvarez, Unesco president Danielson Hepburn, Korea's Sang Byeon Hwi and former National Commission For Culture and the Arts chair Wilma Labrador during the 2nd World Arts Education Conference of Unesco hosted by Korea on May 25-28, 2010. She will have courtesy call with President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. On the occasion of its 65th anniversary, the University of Santo Tomas will award honorable Doctor Honoris Causa to Bokova.

Buy any of these Samsung printers and get folded&hung

Private period is from February 23 to April 30, 2011

Visit us on facebook for exciting news and promos!

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

How to have great hair—from the right shampoo to the right hairbrush

ACCA KAPPA presents paddle brush in kiaffee wood with boar-rubber nylon pins

HOW TO 11

THE SUMMER heat is beginning to be felt. Aside from sheltering us UPF, we must also remember to take care of our hair. Great skin and good hair are essential to looking healthy and well-groomed.

No amount of makeup can hide great skin. And when it comes to our hair, well, keeping it in a right hair can be boring. Here's how to take care of our tresses.

Make your hair product work for you. This means choosing the right product for your hair type and scalp. Some people actually choose products based on smell. Like skin products, there are cosmetics for different hair types. It is also important to be sensitive to your scalp's needs. If you have very dry scalp, make sure not to make your shampoo or conditioner reach your scalp so as not to irritate it.

Know your hair's "personality." Wash your hair regularly to prevent product build up and excess oil, but remember, you don't always have to shampoo if it is too dry or condition if too oily. Always wash with lukewarm water and rinse out hair with cold water to help keep it shiny. Rinse well and pat dry. As with skin, be gentle with your hair to prevent tangles and breakage.

Get regular hair cuts and treatments. This is the secret to maintaining great hair. It doesn't have to be costly; you can do this in the comfort of your own home. A salon

VIDALESS hair

New vein treatment now in Manila

PAGSE, Cary Grant introduces the latest technologically-advanced treatment to treat vein—Vein Plate.

Developed by Dr. Brian Hermann, a vascular surgeon in the UK, Veinfuse is a US-FDA approved treatment that effectively treats and eliminates spider veins, thread veins, cosmetic veins, even tissues.

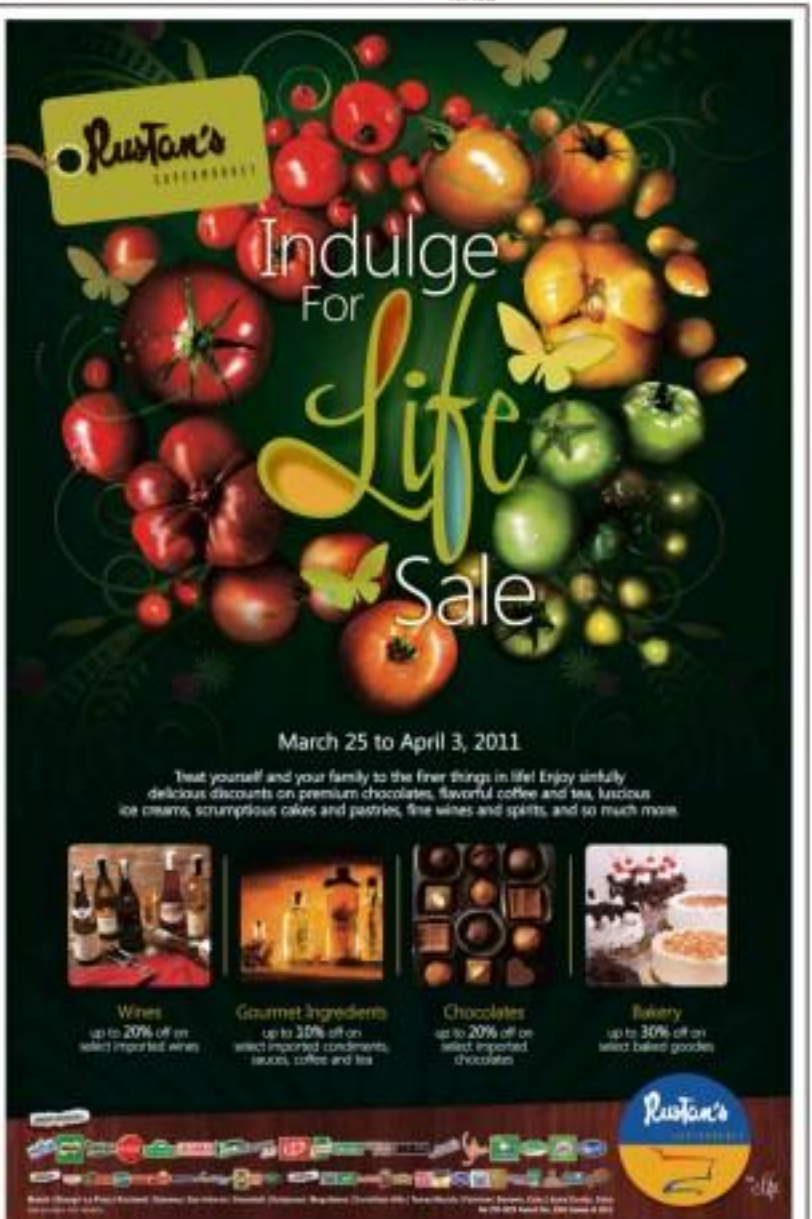
It is also used to treat small leg veins including varicose veins.

Veinfuse utilizes the process of STC (Unipolar Thermo-Coagulation), which makes use of a high-frequency radio frequency energy to heat fine blood vessels (veins). This is delivered through an ultra-fine insulated etched needle, causing the vein walls to collapse, thus making it disappear instantly.

The ultra-fine needle also allows for greater precision, making treatments more accurate, even in areas deemed hard to treat via traditional vein removal treatments like the nose and cheeks.

There is little to the way of downtime. There is no risk of infection. There may be some microscopic and extra redness but they go away, with no scar. In terms of real pain, some say it's like the side of the nose tend to be a bit uncomfortable because that area is sensitive.

Results are quick and instant, especially for small spider veins. Bigger spider veins may require a follow-up treatment, usually spaced 4 to 6 weeks apart. One treatment may take 30 minutes or less, depending on the vein's size.



NAIL a-holics

BE SLIM in the comfort of your own home

STRIP Greenhill

Get that beach body without the sweat

Beauty stations that will get you ready for sun and sand days quick

WHETHER you're ready for it or not, summer is here. You may cringe at the thought of having to wear a bikini, especially if you haven't lost till that Christmas weight yet. Chances are, you're also busy to busy you haven't had the time to get a working job either.

But don't fret. No matter what shape, size or haggard condition you are in, there are beauty stations that will get you a beach body without having to break a sweat.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Rocas

Slim at home

If you're not one to dance away in the gym, find body sculpting and slimming treatments might be more your cup of tea.

Slim at Home will give you that and more with its personalised programs designed to make you beach-body ready for the summer. The selling point? You slim away at the comfort of your own home!

Slim at Home is a new beauty and wellness service that specializes in natural slimming, body sculpting and beauty treatments. A dietitian/nutritionist will give you a personalised diet, while your fitness coach/trainer will give you slimming exercises. It's like having a personal trainer at home.

Non-invasive ultrasonic technology will lift and tone your muscles and can even improve the contour of your face. Being here is no longer an option, because your fitness regimen will come to you.

Call us at +63917 885.2220 (Globe) or 0917 885.2220 (Smart) for more information. Email inquiries@slimathome.com.ph. You may also visit our site at www.slimathome.com.ph.

The Strip

Smooth hairless skin speaks volumes even from a distance. There's no need to make a mess in your own home to achieve this. Rid yourself of unwanted hair by having it done at the strip, which offers different hair removal services for men and women at many areas.

Since its launch in 2002, its influence continues to grow in more cities such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and now Manila.

It's most known for Brazilian waxing for women and Brazilian waxing for men. Done via powerful wax formulas, it's fast as 15 minutes using the highest grade of waxes and post-wax creams, allowing one aftercare do, to confidently wear that beach floor while sporting the utmost of sexiness.

The strip also provides IPL services to stay unwanted hair forever. The IPL machines are so advanced, it's called the Rolls Royce of all IPL machines. This is because you only need 4 sessions to see real results.

You can find us at Strip Serendra, 2nd Floor unit 11 Serendra Boulevard Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

You may call +632.856.0892 or +6391 7647 2132.

We're open from Monday to Thursday – from 10:00a.m.-10:00p.m.

We have another store in the Ayala Point of Greenbelt 5, inside Cruise Makati City.

You may call 3323997 or 6911606 for questions and reservations.

We're open from Sunday to Thursday – at 11:30a.m.-9:00p.m. and Friday to Saturday – at 11:30a.m.-10:00p.m.

You may also visit www.strip.com.ph for more information.

Nail-a-holics

The reasons don't divulge your fingernails to looking dried and shabby. Let these natural nail be restored. Keep them looking their best with a boost of colored polish and look that next manicured to pamper your hands and toes.

At Nail-a-holics Nail Salon & Spa, simply sit back and enjoy the ambiance while the service professionals take care of the rest. Nail-a-holics offers very affordable services. For more packages, to name a few, nail for women (nail extension, nail art and embellishment, eyelash extension), grooming, waxing, paraffin and spa treatment, and massages).

Visit us at the SM Mall Of Asia, 2nd Level, beside Padang Building. You may also call us at 8561722.

We have another branch at SM Megamall, 5th Level, Building B. Call us at 9146616.

You may also visit www.nail-a-holics.com for more information.

STRIP Plus

How to have great hair...

Turn to page 45

SOLINE Brush in Wooden Lever Grip Handle With Alternate Nylon And Nylon Filaments

Be savvy is normally at least half of what you'd spend in your first salon.

Also, blow-drying your hair everyday can lead to damaged hair. The heat from the blow-dryer removes the hair's moisture and may lead to brittle hair. Use heat-protective products to shield your hair and make the process faster.

For right: Like skin, our hair is affected by our diet. No amount of hair products can replace the right food. Proteins, vegetables and fruits do our hair a lot of good.

The right brush

A great makeup brush helps achieve the look we want. This is an investment tool, and if you take care of it properly, you'd probably never only run on three to but you a lifetime. One's for everyday use, the other to detangle your hair while wet, and the third for styling and blow-drying.

Here are the different types of brushes:

● **Cushion brush.** It has a soft cushion base and bristles, often curved on one side. It smoothes and straightens medium to long hair, while massaging the scalp.

● **Paddle brush.** This flat-based brush is small to medium and evenly straightens out thick medium to long hair. It also massages the scalp.

● **Styling brush.** It has close-set bristles that make it easier to control hair. It holds the hair well during styling routine and knots.

● **Thermal brush.** The round part of a thermal brush is made of heat-conductive material, which gets hot when you use a blow-dryer. It therefore removes the blow-drying time.

Thermal round brushes are available in different sizes: petite, large, medium and small. The size of the brush is determined by the length of your hair and the style you want. The smaller the brush, the more reduce the hair and the bigger the curve/wave.

● **Vent Brush.** This brush has holes in the base to let air circulate through hair to blow-dry it faster. It's great in creating volume and the bristles on wide space making it great to use on wet hair too.

CURLING Brush in Ionite Wood with Nylon Rounded Tips Black 48

Shapes

● **Half-round brushes.** Available in different sizes, they are used for every type of styling and blow-drying, and is the brush that is the most versatile.

● **Oval.** Helps the hair while massaging the scalp.

Bristles

● **Metal bristles.** They are widely used but may damage your hair or it is better used on wigs.

● **Natural boar bristles.** They are made with a boar's hair and are recommended because they cause less friction on your hair and are therefore less damaging than synthetic bristles. They also distribute sebum, the hair's natural conditioner that keeps it shiny and healthy, along the hair shaft. These bristles are especially good for people with fine hair.

● **Synthetic bristles.** Synthetic materials like nylon massage the scalp, stimulate oil release, it's easier to clean and last a long time. However, there is a downside. It doesn't distribute the oils equally and is not able to clean your hair it may also be too stiff and eventually damage your hair. So why even call it?

PNEUMATIC Brush in Planar With Nylon And Wild-boar Bristles

OVAL Brush in Ionite Wood with Wild-boar Mixed with Nylon Bristles

The Acca Kappa Professional collection is a complete line of hairbrushes and combs designed exclusively to meet the needs of professional hairdressers. In adoption of materials, attention to detail and ongoing research in collaboration with the world's top hairdressing salons are the cornerstones of the business philosophy. manufactures products for today that last for the future. The use of first-rate materials combined with meticulous techniques passed down through the years guarantees the quality of Acca Kappa Professional brushes. The IC Knoll & C. Quality Management System conforms to the UNI EN ISO 9001: 2000 standard.

Why we recommend

How to tame frizzy, greasy tangled hair

Kiki and Ilona

IYKWIM if we don't admit it, our hair has a lot to do with our day. Your hair can pull together an outfit, make us feel beautiful and give us amazing confidence.

Understandably your day is more likely to be a dreary one when your hair sticks to your scalp like a hot, mat, capsicle from humidity or has a rough tousle due to styling damage.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Kelly Misa

Don't fret. Everyone gets bad hair days; it's a matter of when you do so rues your hair (and your day) most. Some people endure bad hair days for weeks on end until it becomes a normal thing for them, while others are upset to see it once it shows again.

If you're tired of making up to yer asstic or bad hair day here's what to do about it.

Relax. Cry. Frizzy hair gets worse with humidity, which is bad news for us with thick, unruly to curly hair living in a generally humid climates. The moisture in the air causes our hair to expand and lengthen, and keeps it from drying into the shape we desire. This causes our hair to look poofy and out of control. At the same time, hair can lose the ability to retain moisture when damaged, giving it a dry and dull texture.

Luckily, there are loads and loads (and loads) of products out there that work. Start with a moisturizing shampoo and conditioner to weigh down hair and give each strand a silky coat. If you can apply deep conditioning masks every week and work in a leave-in conditioner daily, do it. This will clean your hair's cuticles, preventing the humidity from getting into your hair. Another trick to fight frizz is to rinse with cold water after conditioning to make the hair's cuticles close.

Greasy roots. An excess oily scalp causes hair to be flat and lifeless (or just straighter versus fine hair). In this case, you need volume. If your scalp gets oily a few hours after showering, you may want to switch to a lighter formula or skip the conditioner altogether.

Pump up your hair's volume by using mousse. Apply a dollop of the product on damp hair and run with a round brush curling a few strands at a time. Another way to alleviate oiliness is by lightly patting baby powder on your roots. This will soak up the excess oil and give your hair a bit of body.

Split ends. The only way to get rid of split ends is by cutting them off. A regular trim should keep them from happening. Also, use protective styling products like serums, conditioners and creams before getting a blow dry or ironing your hair. Regular hot oil treatments (once a month) will keep your hair from getting dried out and prevent more breakage.

Tangles. Tangles? Same clue to styling can cause more damage to hair. Don't be tempted to brush it out while your hair is still! Use products on it. Shampoo, then conditioner, but let it soak for more than a minute. Then use a wide-toothed comb to gently untangle hair from there.

Got a beauty question? E-mail the author at kelly.misa@gmail.com.

Oily scalp? Pat baby powder on hair roots to soak up excess oil

Splash launches new 'demi-permanent' hair color

LIFESTYLE media and beauty bloggers were given a first exclusive at the Lustre Demi-Permanent Hair Dye launch.

SPLASH celebrates the Filipina's love affair with her hair with the launch of its latest product, Lustre Demi-Permanent Hair Dye, held last Feb. 22 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, in partnership with Head Zone Salon. The highlight of the launch was a hair makeover participated in by lifestyle media and popular beauty bloggers. Launched in the market a few weeks before Valentine's Day, Lustre Demi-Permanent Hair Dye is specially designed and tested on Asian hair. It provides natural color tones with its three 100 ml variants: Adorable Chestnut, Delight Me Mahogany and Pamper Me Brown. Brand manager Joanna King explained: "A demi-permanent hair dye, Lustre's color lasts between six and eight weeks. The color gradually fades and blends perfectly with the Filipina's natural hair color, leaving no unwanted visible roots." Head Zone owner Mildred Salas is excited about this new line in the market. "I'm proud to say that a Filipino company and brand is providing world-class products that could give the market an alternative." She particularly likes the fact that Lustre has no harsh odor and contains no ammonia, which makes it mild on the scalp and hair. Lustre is also enriched with natural conditioning ingredients—Vitamin E, Bio and Jojoba oil, leaving hair softer, healthier and shinier. It is available in Gibi and Robinsons Department Stores, Watsons and selected Mercury Drug stores.

THE SUNNIEST OFFER EVER!

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE*

(OF LOWER VALUE)

ON OUR BESTSELLERS

*NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER PROMO

THE BODY SHOP

Nature's way to beautiful

Lipstick and nail polish for true lips-to-tips coordination

Revlon's Super Lustrous Lipstick in Fire & Ice remains the brand's top-selling shade since it was first introduced in 1952. Now, the brand celebrates its long heritage with the new Revlon Fire & Ice collection—Revlon Super Lustrous lipsticks with matching nail enamel colors, which allows for true lips-to-tips color coordination. Apart from the original Fire & Ice shade, the line features three new colors— Siren, Temptress and Diamond.

The re-release of the Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Fire & Ice comes with a limited-edition vintage case—a redesigned silver tube with the original Revlon script adorning the gold band. The Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick is infused with silk and vitamins for a smooth, moisturizing feel. Its unique formula assures vibrant color and long-lasting wear.

The Revlon nail enamel, on the other hand, delivers rich, gorgeous color in a smooth, chip-resistant formula. Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Siren, Temptress, Diamond, and Fire & Ice shades are at P450. Revlon Nail Enamel in Siren, Temptress, Diamond, and Fire & Ice shades are at P400. Revlon Nail Enamel in Siren, Temptress, Diamond, and 40 Karat lip colors, P320. Limited-edition Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick Fire & Ice shade in vintage case, P825. For a minimum purchase of P2,000 worth of Revlon cosmetics, get the Limited-Edition Super Lustrous Fire & Ice Lipstick in vintage case for only P400. Available at Watsons, Beauty Bar, SM, Landmark, Robinsons, Rustans, Unimart, Ukay Ukay Pavil.

Beauty retailer revamps website

Filipino personal care retailer MBC, Inc. launches its newly redesigned website today. The new website, www.mbc.com.ph, aims to reach out to more customers anywhere in the world by providing them with the latest information on MBC products, promos and services. The redesign incorporates completely new navigational tools and features such as packaged and customized boxes for online shopping, new resources on MBC products and past TV commercials, franchise requirements, quick forms, and links to social networking sites Facebook and Twitter. An upcoming Makeover Zone page will include tutorials on makeup techniques and hair styling. Call Whitestone Inc. 2335 304 8 427 WEB or e-mail customer@mbc.com.ph.

Sweet bliss: summer polish

Caress the loading nail... hand- and foot-care themed given us something to divert our attention off the scorching heat. Their Summer 2011 collection, Sweet Bliss, is composed of six vibrant colors to match your summer groove. Wear one or pair six shades on your fingers and toes with three exciting combinations. Instantly relive your cream-colored days by painting your fingers with Baby Pink (summer pink) and your toes with On-the-Go (aqua green). Style your way to the beach with the warm hues of Summer Fling (coral red) and Sun Kissed (pumpkin orange) on your digits. Or if you just want to be loose, then try on Sun Goods (pale blue) paired with Sweet Surprise (lemon-yellow) for a young and relaxed vibe.

Limited-edition scents

With "Acqua" meaning "water" in Italian, it is no wonder that Giorgio Armani would choose his two iconic water-inspired fragrances as vehicles to translate enchanting experiences of the sea into cosmic harmony. Acqua di Gio and Acqua di Gioia perfumes. Each bottle comes with an emblematic code at the back of the box. Acqua di Gio has fresh-fruit and aquatic sensual scents for a woody marine harmony. Acqua di Gioia has charming, exotic water fragrance with a delicate, raw crystalline waters.

From Ninoy to Noynoy:

25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

"From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" charts the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the tragic to the comic, and the many shades in between, the Inquirer's 25th anniversary of being highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power 1, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the early 1990s to the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century. It ends in its beginning as the son of the woman whose husband's death sparked Edsa Uno becomes the country's 15th president.

Alongside the history of the Philippines' progress, the book is also the story of the Inquirer's first three years. Pain is paper. Framed by a planned engagement ring to a group of over a dozen cold columns with a poison dart print, chocolate, mirrors and models.

Books are available at the Inquirer Corporate Affairs office, Inquirer Bldg., Tagbar corner Mascardo St., BMG, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Free delivery for a minimum order of 10 books.

To order, please call Gianca Bautista at 897-8808 loc. 352 or 896-4438.

E-mail: bautistag@inquirer.com.ph

DANAO (second from left) including Binglewng Madrideljos, James and Richie Cruz, the celebrator's Vice Mayor Rudy Duterte, Tricia del Rosario, Vince and Isah del Rosario, Glen Evasco and his Mic Evasco, Gino Obrenquito and Bong Guadiberto

TREND. Rosario group—Miguel, Ysabel, Billy, Jorge and Carlos—with Cruggy Aromin (second from right)

KEY BOY(S) Animals with Cornelio Chair Gaite Bellarmine, Trustee Dionisio and Lawyer Jeff Dicarlo

BABY Arsenia Ferro and the celebrator, Jorge del Rosario

BUSINESSMAN Jorge Del Rosario with gorgeous wife Tricia Bravo, in an eye-catching Herve outfit

GEN. SAMMY Papillon and friend Escaler

GREGGY Aromin, Tony Rosario and Sen. Bong Revilla

MERCEDES Rose's first couple, Grace Ang and husband Felix Ang

TRICIA del Rosario with incoming DENR Sec. Ramon Jesena, Tessa Privado-Valdez, Bong Guadiberto and Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla

A '70s bash for a 60th birthday

WILL-RESPECTED businessman magnate Jorge del Rosario turned his magic with toys a grand bash at the Manila Polo Club's Moon Ballroom, thrown by his wife, stunning fashion plate Tricia Bravo del Rosario.

The event had high-end Jimmy queuing up at the entrance of the club, valet-pakisiman, mega-limousine substitutes, and the elite socialed set hovered near the club, dabbings.

Icon of the hottest band in Foxy Disco and Cebu for Jorge's big day, and had entertainment nurse-chappakisi like Basil Valdez, for laughter pal, as the main singers/emcees of the night.

Hold your breath and check these names out, paisalgas: talented Yvette Ocampo, TV's Barbra Gonzalez Ilonas, Vice Mayor Rudy Duterte, Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla and our very own Tessa Prieto-Valdez.

Aprel, Fr. Bernardo Suarez, who came to town from Tagaytay, gave the blessing. Eye-catching piece in Lyn Bravo Bruton and her sis-in-law Elbie Bravo, with cousins Ramon Marcaida, mingled with 400 or so of the elite set, while booze and champagne flowed like a mah flood!

The bash got on a magnum roll when the Sr Session band hit their chords, that had international personality and true old-world socialite Baby Amorsolo Farrer swinging on the dance floor, cooking the place till 2 a.m., paisalgas. Hip blend from way back, Darwin Ongs sent and events coordinator and producer Bong Guadiberto, did the fab styling of this happening that had Jorge's only sister, the attractive Anna del Rosario, jetting in from San Francisco, with her hubby Toby Manglicmot. Another sorta Sex Mar Bravo and Dodie Prado with Chat Lopez, among others.

Tycoon Ring Pal a Ong everyone's palangga and a gentleman who knows how to throw a swinging part's, Jorge del Rosario, lunch in the 70s! Cheers!

BASIL Valdez (center) with Tricia's parents Armand and Maria Bravo

SAMEE, Cruggy Vince and Mandee del Rosario

DADDIES Antonio del Rosario with Jay Poe and Ned Lobregat

RIGLO Villegas, PDI and Bogue writer Paolo Bayo and Pochole Gaviola Moreno

BRIAN Fletcher with Ned Castillo and Mandee Davis

SUNSHINE de Leon with mom Cristina Bravo

EDITT Zapanta Bata

MARIANA Villanueva and Cristina Villanueva Martel

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Massive Jewelry

Photos by Allen Von Shagen
powered by PINOY PMUC CENTER

GEORGINA Wilson partying with Mart Nicdao

ANA GONZALEZ and Tessie de Leon-Gonzalez

EDGAR Magazine managing director Katrina Tuason-Cruz and editor in chief Jose Mari Ugarte

NENE Lobrin and Claudine Trillo

BUSINESSMAN Mon Gonzales with wife, Vogue Magazine cover girl Tanattie de Leon

What to wear on the beach this summer

Leon-Gonzales, jostled with Regatta to promote line of silverwares and eye-catching cover girls from the past and, possibly, Amara. Tuazon was circulating all over the Salon, together with most of the magazine's talented army of writers, photographers, models and artists who all came out in full force, paisalgas.

Awesome head turners, as for Tri concerned, were Sophie Millanes-vera, Pauline Hidalgo, Val Weingarten, Judy Caparas, Inez Lobregat and Ana Gonzalez. Extravaganza, there were also the pretty-as-a-picture couples like Aileen Hemenez and Pepper Rodriguez, Pilu's stunge-tended Bongo Hontiveros circulated with his friendly, while not nearly-as-entertained by Bogue's aunt and business partner Paulie Reyes and emcee/actress Katrina Tuazon-Cruz, as the magazine's smart editor in chief Jose Mari Ugarte chatted with his palo at one of salon's rooms.

The energy was endlessly high, paisalgas, with the beautiful set...great music from Who Shanda and Style: Mana + Playground, and booze from Grey Goose vodka that had most of us staying on till past 3 a.m.

Hey, that's really partying, Bogue's style, paisalgas.

Summer's swimwear roads

You know that the heat is on and summer is here when world-renowned Speedo brought their latest swimwear lines to the locals or shorelovers, dabbings. This season, Speedo introduced their new lines at a fashion show held at the Rockfield High Street framing the brand's flagship store, with the Play and Fun collections for feminine dressing featuring silhouettes in bright pink with graphic panels. The swim dress is a fun alternative to the bikini, dabbings.

And for those who like to relax in and around the waters, Speedo created a range of stylish and practical Health and Wellbeing swimwear.

And lastly, worn by the most passionate athletes in the country, Speedo introduced their awesome competitive collection. The brand's pedigree of top class performance is reinforced to extract in the phenomenal LZR Racer suit, available in three technologies to suit the standard at which the wearer competes... Elite, Pro and Comp.

Teaming with pride from this successful Speedo 2011 collection were special guests, Portland Group PLC's executive director and legal counsel Ian Brown and Head of investor relations Jimmy Bonnick; Speedo International Ltd's regional business development manager for Asia Pacific Harry Singh; Speedo Philippines' VP for Merchandising Fundacz Hidalgo and president Chandru Mahtani; Portland Group PLC executive director and general counsel Ian Brown; Speedo Philippines' Sales and Marketing manager Meghan Valentino; Portland Group PLC head of Security James Bennett.

EDELYN Varela with Bert Lacuata, Swire School's Angelo Locsin and Matthew Associates of the Philippines' Tom Carrasco Jr.

DENISE and Bachie Calalmo

MCDONALD'S Philippines managing director Kenneth Tong and Richard Tio

MORETE Pujo, wife of the director of Trade and Investment of the British Embassy Manila, and Speedo Philippines' Chandru Mahtani

SPEEDO Philippines' VP for Operations Manish Mahtani, Speedo International Ltd's Regional Business Development manager for Asia Pacific Harry Singh, Speedo Philippines' VP for Merchandising Fundacz Hidalgo and president Chandru Mahtani, Portland Group PLC executive director and general counsel Ian Brown, Speedo Philippines' Sales and Marketing manager Meghan Valentino, Portland Group PLC head of Security James Bennett

MA WOOD, Eric Campos, Joana Tupaspas, Tanya dela Paz, Nicole Jadaca, Ines Calaserna and Rich Tupaspas

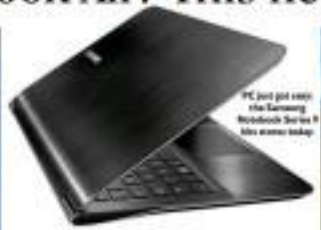
JIG CHASO, Bonnie Balquinedo, Paolo del Rosario, Katrina Tuazon-Cruz and Dodi del Rosario

INTERNATIONAL photographer and "Ten Steps Over" host Rico Guerrero and wife Rene Valea with Criton Dolfino

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

What's lighter and thinner than the MacBook Air? This new beauty

BHITT Eala



PC just got sexy: the Samsung Notebook Series 9 hits stores today

By Cherie V. Mond

ADMIT IT: You've found yourself lusting over the lightness and thinness of the MacBook Air, but just can't get yourself to migrate from a PC. You've simply resigned yourself to a life being stuck with Chunky Notebook Toters.

Today, however, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. rolls out the notebook PC that's ousted us change the course of the mobile computing game. The new Samsung Notebook Series 9 is thinner and lighter than anything you've seen.

The 13-inch Samsung Notebook Series 9 weighs 2.89 pounds versus the 13-inch MacBook Air's 2.9 lbs. It's .64 inches thin compared to the latter's .68 inches.

But it's not the Series 9's cosmetic features alone that are impressive. Its CPU is upgraded to the second generation Intel Core i5 processor. Other specs include a

The Samsung Notebook Series 9—so gorgeous that three fashion designers could draw inspiration from it

Rhett Garcel

BEADY dress

128GB solid state drive. SuperBright (the display is 400 nits, 1,366 183 webcam, built-in USB 3.0/Bluetooth 3.0. Its battery is a hard worker that can last for 7.7 hours—no need to lug around a brick-size charger. Essentially luxury and minimum-to-one-cyclo piece of gadget.

At the launch on Wednesday at the Peninsula hotel, Eric Sohr, Samsung IT & system, said the gunmetal gray black Series 9's design is inspired by a piece of folded

SUMMER ERA

Here are new collections from British style makers Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins. Taking inspiration from the timeless allure of the glorious 50's and glamorous 70's, we have vintage-inspired pieces that redefine luxe. We have tough rocker charm that recreates the festival girl with 'Gypsy Rocker' power. We have serene, breezy quintessential holiday looks that throw in hints of seaside bliss. And finally, we have practical heritage pieces that are nothing short of functional and classy, all in the essence of simple, wearable looks.

THAT 70's SHOW

SWEDISH REVERIE

Swede Dreams Of Summer

By Paul Fishwick

For Topshop, British megabrand of note, summer shines to the tune of glamorous 70's inspiration. From folksy pieces to breezy separates or classic blue denim, there's a look meant to add embellishment to the already bright and shiny season. Achieve these lighty-et-luxe looks effortlessly.

VINTAGE VANTAGE POINT

SHORT ORDER

SUMMER BREEZE

MAKES ME FEEL FINE

An ode to Oldville

One of Taymon's most distinct styles for this season focuses on practical work wear, simple uniform looks with a nod to heritage pieces, or as they christened it, "Oldville."

IT'S IN THE WASH

Many stores stock the basics with extra aging processing and some even accessorize. Get the look:

- Light wash chambray shirt
- Grey/green cargo jeans
- White tee
- Grey/white cardigan

AU NATUREL

Wear neutrals in warm yellow, cream and earth backgrounds. Get the look:

- Mustard cardigan
- Light blue striped shirt
- Olive/army green chinos

GOING NAVAL

Nautical wear plunges spring/summer colour trends even during our coldest days to trigger the sea breeze mood. Get the look:

- Striped nautical tee
- Navy blazer
- Khaki chinos
- Navy polo shirt

SUBTLE STYLING

The simple basics combined with edgy accessories. Get the look:

- White tee
- Olive/army green chinos
- Grey cardigan
- Navy blazer
- Khaki chinos

WHITE OUT

Layer the pieces on your body in white and keep the accessories and shoes neutral and simple to let the garments pop.

BLUE CRUSH

Pair the classic denim shirt with a denim skirt for a monochromatic look. Add a pop of colour with the shoes and bag.

Brights Of Fancy

By Paul Peterson

Dorothy Perkins, the largest womenswear retailer in the UK, opens the spring summer season with a bow to the classic 50's and nostalgic 70's. An eclectic mix of crisp tailoring and a popping palette of bright keen wearing our style is nothing short of iconic. Now we hit and fashion reigns over the head. Enjoy a preview of this lovely collection.

GRAB THESE PIECES

Pair your statement with these must have basics and top the look with a statement bright accessory. Don't forget to accessorize the look.

I SEA THE LIGHT

A nautical classic in crisp white and navy pairs with minimal accessories and simple shoes to let the statement piece do the talking.

BLOCK, MATE!

The summer trend of colour blocking is the key to looking fresh and on-point this season.

BOLD AND BRIGHT

A statement coloured top can add instant pop to your look. Pair with simple bottoms and accessories to let the statement piece do the talking.

What's lighter and thinner than the MacBook Air?

From page F1

paper, such that it's silver dusty in spots and unevenly curved at its apexes. Its light-area is stated to a material called chassis, which is said to be twice as durable as aluminum and is typically used for aircraft design.

Timeless and elegant

While Samsung is careful not to claim that it's going after the same market as its competitor, saying merely that the Series 9 is designed for those who want a hardworking mobile device that's beautifully designed as well, the cosmetic aspects of the notebook was underscored at the launch, with a fashion show featuring three of Manila's house designers.

Rhett Eala's Series 9-inspired collection played on the lightness features, sending out a series of "light as air" sheer black tulle and chiffon dresses with textured gold and black on-black accents. He called his collection timeless and elegant, the Series 9 "something you desire."

Randy Ortiz opted for a play on the svelte shape of the clothes, with sleek, metallic dove gray and patterned pieces. The ruching and soft draping fashioned his statement that women need not be eccentric to wear his clothes. Typical of fashion-wise, his choice of gadgets is influenced by aesthetic appeal.

Rajo Laurel digressed from the more classic design references of the Series 9, and opened the show with a parade of bright and colorful clothes that underscored "fluidity and movement." His so-called "odd combination of colors" in a happy motif in the Series 9's super bright and true-to-life color display, touted as the brightest in its class, echoing the capabilities of the Series 9, Laurel said he finds solitude in a "quiet mind."

"Great conversation transcends what's on the outside," he added.

The great mind and gorgeous looks of the Series 9, however, commands a hefty price tag (last the competition, at ₱79,990, with a three-year warranty.

Then again, you can't put a price to great performances. Other people's envious stares? Just grazy.

UNVEILING the Samsung Notebook Series 9 product manager Hannah Francisco, Vivienne Wong, Intel Philippines' business development manager Eric Guth, Kapsys director of IT group and Chipot Tan, Kapsys head of corporate marketing

KYUNG Chul Park, CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp.

BONGWAN Kim, Kapsys VP for IT group

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SAMSUNG Notebook Series 9 sparrow-clothes just as bright, thin and light from the country's busiest designers (from top): Rajo Laurel, Randy Ortiz and Rhett Eala

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

How to be beautiful without Photoshop

Here are tricks learned from 27 years in the business—from going on low-salt diet three days before a shoot to saying 'A!' instead of 'cheese!'

By Raymond Isaac
Contributor

HAVING been on the business for 27 years, having experienced the analogue and the digital ages of photography, has taught me the secrets of posing for the camera without resorting to Photoshop Luxe.

I always pride myself in being able to shoot perfectly without having to use Photoshop. That way my models are proud when they learn that Photoshop is not necessary because they already look good. It gives one a sense of empowerment to realize that Photoshop is a tool to just a crutch for an unprepared shoot.

Here are some of the things I tell my celebrities and models before a shoot.

One must go on a **low-salt diet** at least three days before the shoot. Salt intake tends to puffy face and bloating of the body due to water retention. Drink as much water as you can to prevent this. Water gives your skin a healthy glow.

Healthy glow

Cardio exercise is also good before a shoot. It brings up energy and gives you a healthy glow. Running, badminton, whatever you do, do it. This, too, minimizes unwanted bloat.

Some people diet before a shoot, but chilling doesn't work. A sudden reduction of food intake signals your body to preserve fat instead of losing it.

A good solution is always a gradual change of lifestyle.

Coffee is a staple to my studio because of the obvious caffeine boost needed for the job. But did you know that **coffee is also a good diuretic**? It makes you go to the bathroom and makes your heart pump faster, making blood flow faster and speeding up metabolism, making people thinner and less water retentive. An apple is a good substitute for caffeine. Be sure to eat the skin, too.

Don't oversleep. Otherwise, expect eyebags the next day. People who are 30 and above should be able to get by on six hours of sleep, children in the need 10 hours.

Try to figure out how your body clock works. Lack of sleep or oversleeping can make you sluggish.

Never forget to take your vitamins, drink water and apply moisturizer. These things conditions your skin so makeup is properly absorbed. Dry skin makes your makeup flaky. You don't want to look like a zombie, do you? Makeup for the studio is not the same as makeup in the office.

When one doesn't have the luxury of a stylist, one must be aware of the person's purpose. Whether it is for a portrait, for an ad, or for fashion, these dictate the kind of clothes you should bring.

For portraits, one must remember that you are more important than clothes, so try not to bring clothes that overpower your face.

This means anything that will distract the viewer from you? Big prints are among my deadly sins in the studio. Keep the silhouettes of your clothes simple. That way, the first thing people will see is your face, and not the print.

The same applies to jewelry. Don't look like a Christmas tree before the Christmas season even starts. The only jewels that should glitter are on your eyes, nothing more.

In the studio

As we get to the studio proper, there are things we should know. First is to distan-

next to us

GARFIELD

A. GIPPR

PUGAD BABOY

DICK TRACY

LOVEMORE

BABY BLUES

RHEA MACHINE

DEN

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DUSTIN

TULADA

SUDOKU

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs go to www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku

4		8				5		9
				2				
2			3		8			6
		7				3		
	8						9	
		2				4		
6			1		9			5
				6				
1		5				2		7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FILM. Samoa is very strict with her sleeping hours. She tries her sleep for 8 hours only. Anything more or less than this makes her feel bloated.

FIGO. Fico said needs to wake up before a pictorial by doing push-ups or sit-ups. He even brings his own dumbbells to a shoot.

How to be beautiful without Photoshop

From page G1

PHOTO. Barrueda is trained to catch the light. A trained model becomes sensitive to how light falls on her face. Yes, too, can be trained to do so.

raise whether the person taking your photo is a photographer or a visual artist. The two are not the same. A photographer takes pictures; a visual artist depends on Photoshop or the computer.

Know where your light is. The best way to take advantage of any pictorial is to know where your light is coming from and catch it. It's actually very similar to sunbathing, only indoors.

Elongate your neck by pushing your shoulders down. This will give the illusion that you are tall and thin, even if it's just a medium shot. As it happens a lot in beauty contests, some (like Binibini Precious Lara Quigaman) are naturally tall, while others (like Binibini Tourism Queen Maria Venus Raj) are not. Tricks like this help.

Slightly raise your eyebrows for a fresh and innocent look. Do this, too, when you're smiling for the camera. Gravity is not a friend of the ladies. It pulls down our facial features as time goes by. Raising your eyebrows gives an illusion of a facelift.

Speaking of lifts, I never tell my subject that he or she has a double chin. I say that "gravity affects you more than others." To solve this, **push your chin slightly forward.** This will stretch the chin to tighten it. An instant chin lift, long neck and high cheekbones—it will be almost perfect.

Five years off

A real smile is always the best youth activator. A smile takes away five years from your face, despite the wrinkles it creates. It gives the model an air of confidence, security and zest for life. Never practice a smile; make it come out naturally.

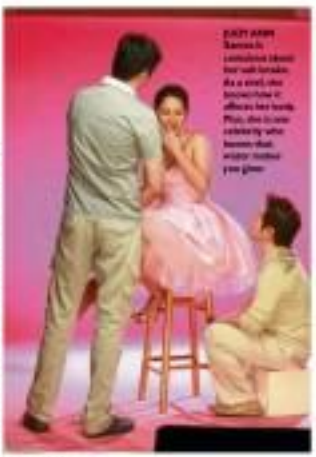
But for those who really can't smile for whatever reason, there's a way to do that. No, it's not saying cheese or sex, these words create tension marks on your neck, making you look older.

The simple word is "S." All smiles are evoked, so don't fret. "S" gives you a perfect smile.

Remember, our faces have two sides, the young and the old, which is why it is important to know the purpose of the pictorial. If you're doing a pictorial to exude power and authority then your old side. Usually, it's the side of your face that is thinner and has a higher cheekbone.

If your purpose is to sell yourself as a young, relaxed person, then show your young side. This is the side where your face is normally rounder.

At the end of the day, looking perfect is not good. It's the imperfections that make you sound out. They differentiate you from the clones everybody creates in the computer. Besides, looking too perfect tells people that you are not comfortable with yourself, which is why you depend on Photoshop. We don't want that, do we?



JUST ASIDE. Samoa is confident about her soft brown. As a result, she focuses how it affects her body. Plus, she is not celebrity who knows that water makes you glow.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK. Fico says he doesn't have to be beautiful if he wants to, as proven by the photos from one of her private pictorials. But if she needs to be fixing, she appears funny. That's why it's important to know the reason for being in front of the camera. ALSO A user of my favorite characters is Iron of the Iron.

Celebrity, sports and style in one big Southeast Asian fashion show

LAST MARCH 15, for the first time in Southeast Asia, all five labels under the Adidas sport style division and Adidas by Stella McCartney came together at Singapore's Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza for the brand's biggest regional fashion event.

The affair was attended by over 600 guests—media, business partners, celebrities such as Paul Evans, Randall Tan and Melody Chen, Sarah Tan and Soo Kai Jun, Perfect 10 Liu Shan and Roy Sudirotomo and consumers alike.

NO showed for the first time out of New York Fashion Week, in a capsule collection of six looks, with homegrown actor Christopher Lee opening the show. The Paradox Omega Xpass followed, debuting in its first fashion show outside of Carrera Cup events with Singaporean athletes and model Shane Ngoh and Vietnamese international model Nguyen Binh Minh.

Singapore heartthrob Dai Bing Tian and former Miss Universe Natalie Glebova walked down the runway for preppy SOH, while Malaysian actress Carmen Soo came out in a sultry mania dress from Adidas by Stella McCartney. The youngest alternative label Mes featured MTV VJ Holly Cashanah and Filipino celebrity basketball player Chito Vic.

At intermission, the guests became among the first in the world to view the all-new global "all Adidas" global brand campaign one day before its official launch. After which, DJ Reflow and Singapore's hardworking prisoners (Shane) took to the stage.

PHILKY SAAN arrives Carmen Soo in a tennis dress from Adidas by Stella McCartney

Singapore's Never Factory club owners Bobby and Riz Bero came out to open the last collection for the night, Adidas Originals, the label's designer collaboration series with Jeremy Scott.

They were followed by Indonesian band Alexa's lead singer Ananda "Nyf" Ritzkie, and Singapore fashion editor Sheila Lee who presented the other lines within the Originals arm.

NEO II a sports-inspired take for stylish youth, its youthfulness and dynamism connected to a trendy, contemporary beat.

SUCCESSFULLY grown since 2005, Adidas by Stella McCartney remains a unique concept for women. Rooted in functional sports performance but with no compromise on style, the collection consists of apparel, footwear and accessory pieces.

ORIGINALS—a lifestyle brand that celebrates individuality, creativity and individuality.

SM accessories

BOHO Accessories WORN 4 Ways

Accessorize to find the boho style that suits you! Get gorgeous pieces to create a variety of looks at the ultimate fashion destination, the SM LADIES' ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT.

1 **sweet & chic** *at the cafe*

The beauty of the concept of layering accessories - the Bohemian way! - is that you can create many different Boho looks to reflect your many stylish personalities! Find exactly what you need and want at WWW, the brand for the sophisticated, fashionable woman.

Play on these beauties to come up with your own interpretation of the Bohemian trend.

Look for earthy accessories when you're keen to Boho.

2 **glam goddess** *at the club*

3 **diva** *at the lounge*

4 **laid back boho** *at the beach*

Stylish musts for your Bohemian look!

Editor Brenda G. Velarde
ENTERTAINMENT Living Stars

"FOR ME, it's not about money; it's about having a car that few people have," says celebrity radio anchor Arnell Ignacio of his passion for cars.

Baby ride my car

By Bella Cariaso, contributor

CELEBRITY radio anchor Arnell Ignacio's passion for cars led him to a bridal car business, whose centerpiece are his own prized possessions.

Arnell told Inquirer Entertainment that his shop, "Ingacio's cars," started a year ago, after he interviewed events organizer Marcos Ishizu on his old radio program on dzRH.

Subject of their discussion was the June 2008 Philippine Wedding Summit at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

Unexpected

"I told her I was fond of cars, that I had a lot of them. She asked what I planned to do with the cars and suggested that I try a bridal car service. I did not even think it was a profitable venture," said Arnell.

He smiled up proposing to that 2010 expo. "I was given a free spot. The feedback was unexpected. I realized there really was such a thing as a bridal industry. Since now we joined, we were more prepared, with flyers and all," he said. The Wedding Expo at the SMX Convention Center runs last March 12 and 13 was his third.

FPJ's car

Arnell enjoys restoring old cars. "After I restored my 1960 Lincoln Continental, I wondered what to do with it," Arnell said. How he got it is a story in itself.

"It was parked in Bicu and Bell," he recounted. He went over it and learned that the original owner was Fernando Poe Jr. "It runs, with just 89 units all over the world, including FPJ's. For me, it's not about money, it's about having a car

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GREENBELT

Kris hopes to 'encourage' son's manhood

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

LIKE most boys his age, little Junior Yap loves playing with toy guns. On his fourth birthday on April 19, the precocious kid is asking for a new one, said his mother, Kris Aquino.

"Baby, ashdan ng (Mommy) magulang ang Kris na 'to dapat ang pinregalo (for child)," the said during their launch as White Xing Fire vs Spaghetti's new endurance comedy.

Although she herself is apprehensive, Kris said, chose to honor Mayenda and estranged husband James Yap approve.

"Sinabi ng mommy ni (Herong Dog, I should be happy) ko [that guns] Tapos sinabi ni James na walang masama kung [you ang gun to, because that means kidding is in safe]," she said. "Now that I'm saying [there's anything wrong with being gay but of course, I want to encourage that manhood]."

She continued, "Ang okay ga ... pero 'kung [And long ang kinabukasan para sa]."

One thing the boy currently inherited from his mother is the sharp tongue. In fact, Kris admitted, many things he says floor her.

She related: "One time, I wanted to change channels so watch the news. Pinatotoon ni Bimby ng Cartoon Network. Sabi [ang pinapa-change do na sabi ko nanood si Kris, 'Mama, I don't like. That's so stupid!' Ay nakakaloka."

She also said Bimby once told his dad: "I don't like basketball. It's so boring!"

Kris said she confessed with his teachers in Brent School and was told her son liked to play with kids four years his senior "because Bimby's so tall ... kasi [being one-two ngayong napapalo [from the older boys]."

Thankfully, after a heart-to-heart with him, "alam na niya not to say those things, dahilgan ang [explain me sabagu ..."

The endorsement launch also served as advance birthday party for little James. He gave gifts to 10 orphans from Bahay Maria Children's Center.

Asked how important it was to instill the concept of sharing as a very young age, Kris said, "It always will [com, kasi] parenting kasi ka lang nang kuha tapos wala kang consciousness. Sa should also know by example. Ikang matuto siya na hindi nanggang ang nanay niya, at marang dinala na magregalo ang bubay ng ibang tao pagnoon din niya 'yun."

KRIS Aquino and son Bimby

ARNELL'S 1965 Lincoln Continental

Baby ride my car

from page B4

that few people have."

Arnell ride has a 1965 Lincoln Continental. "I saw it in the car store of a friend who had come home from Dubai," he said. "I searched - they for everything needed to restore it. Some parts had to be shipped."

That's also because he insisted on all-original parts.

"At the SMX expo, people said it looked fresh from the factory, though it was 38 years old," Arnell added.

Also part of his fleet is a 2008 Mercedes Carrera, which he bought for P6 million, and a 1980 Mercedes Benz 200E.

His rates are reasonable, Arnell pointed out. A wedding can cost a minimum of half a million [pesos], he said. "If the bridal car rental is, say, P10,000, that's small."

Arnell said his cars may be rented from P3,500 (the Benz) to 925,000 (the Porsche Carrera) for the first three hours. Rowers included, "plus the driver na chauffeur na ang kuya."

Out-of-town bookings way email extension.

Unveiling 'strong'

His renowned nursing shows a booking for the Lincoln Continental in Cebu. "I'd have to send it by sea (roll on, roll off liner). There's no guarantee it would not be scratched."

ARNELL Ignacio and daughter Bella

But he also recalled a time when he asked a couple to just spend for gasoline. "I even drove the Lincoln all the way to UP-Clarvis. The guy kept sitting in the car, taking pictures ... but I could see he could not afford it. Finally, he said he'd just take the limo, and I convinced him to take the Lincoln for P3,000 and pay for the gas. In the end he paid me P1,000 after my driver [driver-cum-bodyguard] ..."

Best-looking car

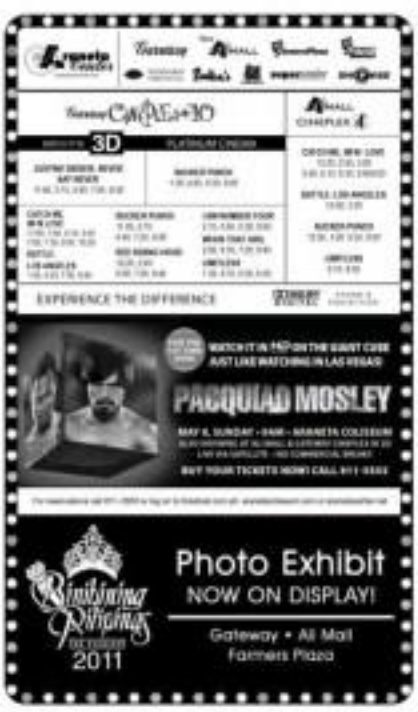
Arnell said he of-friend the 1965 Lincoln for free to Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez when they wed.

"I ended up using it myself during the event—I had the best-looking car," he said, chuckling.

There are reasons Arnell rides next to his cherished car. For one, "like I did for this couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary."

He [5-year-old daughter Bella helps with the business. "I let her [ride] motorists for his flyers. I do that when I have free time in school," Imlan told Inquirer.

Aside from "legal-ly nice" ind. 726-1607 or 09 [illegible], Arnell also owns and operates Carolina Hair Systems Corp., [illegible], hair extensions, etc.) at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. He also hosts "Sir Mixer Lonely Nights" daily 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on dzIQ Radyo Inquirer 990.



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MY FRIEND Sam discovered "The Power of Jabez (Breaking Through to the Blessed Life by Bruce Wilkinson with David Kopp)" and gave me a copy. It's very helpful in daily life. It teaches me to be specific in my prayers, it aids me [insanity] when I cram. The Lord gives us everything we need, but in His time, not ours. It's very inspiring. Text and photo by Bayani Sara Diego Jr.

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
2: LIMITLESS
3: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
4: RED RIDING HOOD
5: RANGO
SUCKER PUNCH
6: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE
7: SUCKER PUNCH

GREENBELT 1

1: SUCKER PUNCH
2: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE

GREENBELT 2

1: SUCKER PUNCH
2: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
3: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE
4: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
5: LIMITLESS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE
2: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
3: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
4: LIMITLESS
5: RED RIDING HOOD

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: RESERVED
2: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE
3: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
4: SUCKER PUNCH

MARQUEE

1: SUCKER PUNCH
2: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER(3D)
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
4: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE

MARKET! MARKET!

1: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
2: LIMITLESS
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: SUCKER PUNCH
2: LIMITLESS
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (3D)
4: JUSTIN BIEBER NEVER SAY NEVER (3D)
5: RANGO
6: RED RIDING HOOD
7: CATCH ME IM IN LOVE

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Mike Tan, practical shopper

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Richard Rojas

ACTOR Mike Tan claims he is a practical shopper, buying branded stuff only when they go on sale.

"Imagine how much you'll save by being 'patient,'" Mike tells Living Stars.

But he'd spend for the sake of durability and comfort. "A cheap wallet would last only two months, I'd buy a more pricey one to guarantee another three (could not forget," explains the cast member of the coming series "Captain Barbell" on GMA 7.

HE'S FAVE suit with Chinese collar and zippers instead of buttons

HE LOVES reliable gym bag

HE HATES heavy items without his Quicksilver sling bag

Footwear

My favorite pair of slippers is from Nike. I just find it roomy. I've misplaced it—unfortunately—long ago.

"The grey rubber shoes from Diesel are very comfortable. I tried to buy more of the same design.... I had a white version, which I left in Cebu but during a trip...

Scents

Polo Blue is one of my first perfumes. This is my favorite bottle. But my current favorite is Reaction by Kenneth Cole.

TOM Cruise wore this timepiece in one of his films.

HE GOES for the cologne scents of Polo Blue and Kenneth Cole Reaction.

THE ONLY pair he was ready to swap on the "Trade Up" series (above), the favorite from Diesel (right).

Video games collection

I have a whole closet of PC games—"Lord of the Rings," "Return of the King," "Final Fantasy"....I also got hooked on "World of Warcraft" and its expansions.

DVD collection

I have a lot of Al Pacino DVDs including "Scarface" and "Scent of a Woman." I also have "The Godfather" trilogy, and movies ng films like "Lawman's Oil," "The Awakening," "I'm a big Stand Cruise fan.

Bag

My favorite is a Quicksilver—I'm attached to it. I use it even if it doesn't match the clothes I'm wearing, but now's the gym.

Suits

This is memorable (shows a classic white suit). I was wearing it when I won "Starstruck." It was made by Ricci Quinto. But my favorite is the one in midnight blue. It's unique, with a Chinese collar, and it has a zipper, not buttons.

Tops, bottoms

Comfort is very important to me. If my handlers allowed me to wear loose-fitting jeans to work, I would. I don't like smooth shirts. Loose shirts and jeans, that's me.

Accessories

My favorite watch is from So Cuchu Tom Cruise wore one in a movie.

This is my first leather wallet. So much has happened to this—fell into the toilet bowl ... but I can't bear to throw it away.

Shades

My favorite was my Oakley Thumpy, with a built-in mp3 player. I lost it at a computer shop. But I still have my Oakley frames.

HE DANCE got hooked on on-line games like "World of Warcraft."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emerlo G. Velarde

Google 'Gaga' over pop diva's visit

SAN FRANCISCO—Pop diva Lady Gaga thrilled Google employees during a visit to the Internet giant's headquarters on Tuesday in which she answered questions from tech-savvy fans. She broke Twitter's one-hour limit for an interview with Google's Marissa Mayer, who asked the singer questions submitted using Twitter or through a Google Moderator service in her YouTube channel. AFP

CHEEK FACTOR

OH BOY, BAWAL ANG BABOY
OH MY, KUMAIN NG GULAY
ISANG PAALALA MGA TAONG MAHAL NA ARAW

QUIDAM by Cirque du Soleil
REKAI
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

One 'happy, dysfunctional family'

Thus, its company manager describes the colorful Cirque du Soleil troupe. Indeed, it must be like a roller-coaster ride traveling with this gang of 60 from 23 countries, speaking different tongues. /J3

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MALL EVENTS

"VAREKAI" performers take a bow. (From left) Irina Nazarenko, Rob Balla, Nesi Balla and Sergio Talamás.

Crazy, colorful Cirque du Soleil

The Canadian troupe is one big happy, dysfunctional family, according to its company manager

By Rayant Gar Chuya Jr.
Photos by Andrew Tabitas

CIRQUE du Soleil company manager Robert Mackenzie put it succinctly: "We're one big happy, dysfunctional family."

Indeed, it must be a colorful, crazy journey traveling with this merry band of clowns and acrobat-artists, artists and mavericks, all over the world.

Still, Mackenzie told Inquirer Entertainment that Cirque, after 25 years in the biz, has become a "well-oiled machine."

Well, the include-but-exclusive will be visiting Manila on the wings (capes?) of the show "Varekai," which will run from June 22 to July 9 at the Mind Park across the Quirino Grandstand.

Mackenzie told Inquirer during the show's launch at the Manila Hotel that the company will bring in 1,200 tons of sets, costumes and props in 65 container trucks.

It may seem like a logistical nightmare but it's not, Mackenzie asserted, because Cirque is used to the drill by now.

He conceded, however, that since "Varekai" has a cast of 66 performers from 20 different countries, the troupe can be described as some sort of a movable Babel.

"We have performers from Argentina to the Ukraine, speaking different languages," said Mackenzie. "Fortunately for us, the common language is English."

Mathieu Gamot, the artistic director, told Inquirer that Cirque is open to various kinds of artists, regardless of individuality, religion, gender and performing abilities.

Inspiring

Cengiz Tekmak, a differently abled "Varekai" cast member, performs a solo on crutches, Mackenzie said.

"It's always inspiring to watch Cengiz," Tekmak said.

Tekmak, from Germany (though his parents are from Turkey), related that he joined a hip hop boy band called Its FUNK when he was younger.

As for his unique dance routine, he said, "I learned it on my own."

Another trio and their skills, who are from Italy, said they picked up their acrobatic skills from their family. "Passed on for generations," explained Rosi.

Still, the Bellos don't take anything for granted and rehearse constantly. "We spend an hour in the gym every day," said Rosi. "And we warm up 30 min. max before the show."

ARTISTIC director Mathieu Gaulon (above) says the troupe members (four of them in top photo) come from different countries and backgrounds.

E-mail: inquirerreadings@inquirer.com

City pays tribute via 'Simon's Way'

By Diana M. Barrameda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—A major theatrical event is ongoing here as the countdown for the anniversary celebrations of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia draws to a close.

With a star studded cast and a P700,000 set, "Simon's Way"—a combined theatrical and cinematic performance inspired by the life of Fausto Sixto Simón and his quest for the image of the Virgin Mary in Salamanca, Spain—may performance last night at the newly-refurbished de Oro Isabel Auditorium here. It will be arranged tonight and tomorrow.

Created by internationally acclaimed composer-director Ferdinand Dimadura, "Simon's Way" stars Gerard Canerd, Arnina Cheska Ho, Cito Villanueva, Jun Jurado and Sheila Serrano; joint production Fr. Leo An Aniceto and Fr. Fidel Bagunas; Naga City's Jolyn Dilao and Raymund Holden; and the University of Northeastern Philippines Chorus.

Ballet

The said is accompanied by 20 ballet dancers from the Gigi Feliz Manila Ballroom of Ballet, AUP dancers of Universidad de Sta. Isabel, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

The musical part of "Simon's Way" focuses on the unconventional love between a seminarian-composer, Simon (Canerd), and a lady and rebellious aristocrat, Elia (Arnina). A common interest, music, brings them together on a journey of faith and hope set in historic and religious landmarks in Bicol.

Dimadura said the musical—which, for the time being, arranged and directed—is about the adventures and frustrations of Sola that lead to his accomplishing the image of the Virgin.

Inspiration

Dimadura said the inspiration for the "cinematical" came to him after he composed "The Wind Is Blowing Home," which he intended for the original script of "Simon's Way."

"The first draft for 'Simon's Way' was almost ready and my filmmaker who is asked to do a movie about 'Isa,'" and Dimadura. "But when I finished 'The Wind Is Blowing Home,' I suddenly visualized an old priest playing the piano. I don't know where that priest is, but he is the reason for the story we have here."

Dimadura confessed that mounting the project was not been easy for him and everyone else in the cast.

"It was all a true journey of faith," Dimadura said.

Proceeds from "Simon's Way" will go to post parishes under the Archdiocese of Caceres to be flung areas of Camarines Sur.

Performances have also been set at the University of Northeastern Philippines on March 28, Rosario World Manila on April 14 and Legazpi City on May 14. Tickets may be purchased at SM City Naga and E-World.

"Simon's Way" is a project of the Archdiocese of Caceres with the participation of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Association.

'Reyna ng Aliwan' early birds

A SEARCH for festival queen perks up this year's celebration of Aliwan Fiesta. Beautiful young ladies representing various festivals all over the country are vying for the title "Reyna ng Aliwan 2011." Pageant night is set on April 15 at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Manila Broadcasting Company, producer of the pageant, has released the initial list of candidates: Janine Lao and Abegail Plaza for Pinoto Manila; Kim Ash, Baptiz; Yen Mae Morrison and Jeremy Jose Kwan, the Sinkil South; Bernadette Chai, Bulacanic; Angel Bermoy, Panjalapus; Cecilia Del Rosario, Oriental Mindoro; Quinvel de la Cruz, Batangas;

Jennilyn Zupo, Calumpanian; Skye Ejada, Quezon province; Cindle Hale, Samantha Sequino, and Dominique Hasan, Boiki; Brigelle Cesarman, Cebu; Joy Geronimo, Negros Oriental; Ayana Joy Dolot, Smith Cordovan; Michelle Valerie Paddao and Perlyn Micaela Pareja, Oriental Station City; Shira Marie Sustaverilla, Sarangani; Barbara Jandres, Balian Mindoro; Katherina Sevo, Bulacan Bonbons; Irene Lucman, Davao.

The candidates, each last year's winner Kirstie Gomez of Cebu, will join a grand parade of floats on April 10.

KODELIE Cabanero

Vanessa on Zac, Zack and Pacman

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Khalee I. Sajnani

'I always try to move forward with the positive'

LOS ANGELES—**Vanessa Hudgens** draws on her passionate Filipino spirit to inspire her as an actress and as a young woman.

In this latest interview, the star said her Filipino mother's fighting spirit helped her play one of the two survivors in director Zack Snyder's "Sucker Punch." It was also her mom's toughness that lived up Vanessa in her career and personal life.

"Filipinos are very passionate," said the ever-smiling Vanessa. "You know, I'm half Filipino and I'm Mama's [Gina Guangco] child, 'nobody!' She exclaimed, raising both fists in a subtle (in the boxing champ. "You don't want to mess with Gina. My mom, too, is extremely passionate. You don't want to piss her off. I really enjoy it because there's a little fighter inside of me. There has to be a fighter inside of you to stay in this business, or you wouldn't get anywhere."

Single again

Continuing that duty, single again after splitting up with longtime boyfriend Zac Efron, Vanessa said: "It's amazing and beautiful and very exciting to step into the unknown. I have all the time for myself. You really have to love yourself before you can love anyone else. I'm young and still figuring out what I want to do. I have so many interests and amazing friends and family who allow me to find joy in my drive and passions and to keep going."

We told Vanessa what Zac said when we interviewed him—that he was excited that she got to work with Zack Snyder, who directed "300" and "Watchmen." She replied, "All of Zac's friends would want to see the movie. Hopefully he'll see it with them. It supposed to catch a wide audience. If you're a guy, there are the awesome actions sequences. If you're a woman, it's empowering. It has something for everyone."

Asked if she'd consider working with her ex again, Vanessa answered: "You never know...are would."

"Sucker Punch" reflects Vanessa's transition from her "High School Musical" days to adult roles. She plays street-smart Blondie in the action fantasy that shows her and four other actresses, Abbie Cornish, Emily Browning, Jamie Chung and Jena Malone—dealing with everything from samurais to vampires. Vanessa is, of course, a lovely brunette who kicks ass in the film, but her character has blonde tresses—thus the name.

"This project really freed me and allowed me to grow as an actress," Vanessa said. "Some of the hardest scenes were emotionally draining, but the creative environment that Zack Snyder crafted for us allowed us to play and learn from each other [enough to] try anything we wanted. When you try different things, beautiful things come from the spontaneity."

Vanessa and her costars' physical preparation for the action scenes included training with a former Navy SEAL and the team that coordinated the fight scenes in "Kill Bill" and "Inglourious Basterds." "It's amazing when you're lifting weights faster [and] also. To know that you can do that gives you confidence not only physically but also mentally."

Vanessa's family—dad Greg Hudgens, mom Gina Guangco and sister Stella—is also a constant support group. "They keep me grounded," said Vanessa, who started performing in musical theater at age 8. "I adore my family."

VANESSA Hudgens says the pacman's Filipino in her

VANESSA Hudgens is set to star in "Sucker Punch"

Adorable mom

Told that some of his costars revealed that they adored Gina, too, Vanessa beamed and replied: "My mom is the woman I aspire to be. She is the most genuine, kind-hearted person. She has such a happy nature. She makes friends with everybody. I try to pick up things from her. I definitely try to bring her along whenever I can.

"For 22 year old born in a house that she bought in 2008. 'I'm completely domesticated and I love it,' she happily exposed. "I love to myself. I clean my house and cook my own food. Grocery shopping is one of my favorite pastimes. I love being able to take care of myself."

She added, laughing: "Of course, it's always nice when my mom comes over and helps me with my laundry every now and then. Laundry is my least favorite thing to do."

On what qualities she looks for in a man, possibly the next Zac Efron in her life, Vanessa said: "Loyalty, of course, is No. 1. I'm also very much into people who can make the best out of misery and who live in the moment. Do [not Day-one."

Excessive attention

A paparazzi favorite, Vanessa commented on the amount of media coverage she's been getting: "It's nice that people want to know more about me. I feel, though, that at times it could be excessive. I look to a bunch of older movie actresses and I really don't know much about their personal lives. I look at their body of work and I respect them for that. I'm hoping that one day I'll have that status. But this is a new era. It's a matter of finding a balance, of putting your full attention into your work and trying to put your best foot forward. And not paying too much attention to others."

She cites "not to listen to the negative. I always try to move forward with the positive. "One of those positive elements in her life is her relationship with Drake of Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to kids who have life-threatening medical conditions. "It's sweet to hang out with the kids. I try to bring them to my premieres and do what I can to help them."

She has another new film, "Beastly"—a modernday version of the "Beauty and the Beast" tale—with Alex Pettyfer, Mary-Kate Olsen and Neil Patrick Harris. "It's a little bit edgier and scarier with respect," she explained. "We wanted to get a new realism to it. I don't think the films needed to realize if there was a big furry guy. I feel that my character has a lot to do with myself, being able to look past outer appearances and see people for who they truly are. That's a message that I really want to get out to teenagers, because for some in high school, everything seems to be about who you hang out with and what you're wearing. It's all the superficial things."

Coming up later this year is the actress-adventurer "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," in which she costars with Michael Caine. "I've been just a joy to work with," she said of the veteran actor. "He speaks his mind. He's surprisingly hip, too. He was telling me about a keyboard he got, iPad, and once I heard him singing 'Firework' by Katy Perry."

We noted Vanessa that every time we see each other, we ask if she has made her first trip to the Philippines yet. She has not. It's her dream to visit with her mom, who has not returned to the country for many years. "I know!" she said with a smile. "I need to set a date; write it on my calendar and just do it."

E-mail the columnist at mercpatic_5500@yahoo.com.

GRAND OPENING TODAY
PG-13

Shoppers' Alley

E-mail: supplements@inquirer.com.ph
Supplements Head Jong Arcano

Windows display that actually work

Why talking to shoppers in a graphic way has never been more important

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

In today's very visual and ever competitive environment, the store' windows display can make the difference.

Window display is a key factor in getting potential customers - who would have otherwise just passed by without even giving a glance - to actually come inside the stores. This is important because once customers are inside the stores, it's easier to make a sale.

Suffice it to say that windows displays is a double-edged thing - make it good and you just might get more customers interested to your brand; labor in it and take the risk of losing a couple of patrons.

What makes a good window display is its relevance (whether it fits the occasion or the season); its character that allures customers to associate themselves with it; and most important, its buzz.

In other words, windows displays could very well be the window to your store's soul, so to speak.

Here are some more benefits of having a good windows display:

1. It's an ideal way to advertise items

In order for people to know what your brand is selling, advertising is needed. There's no better way to do this than to show off the designs in the windows, where people - even those who have no plans at all to purchase your products at the moment - will see them.

2. It's a way to 'talk' to your customers

There are many ways to communicate with a brand's loyal following - through websites, social networking sites, billboards, print ads. But it's the windows displays that entice them to go inside the store now. It's like the aroma of a food that make stomach's suddenly growl with hunger.

3. It's a good way to develop your brand

While shopping online is gaining foothold in the country, it's still important to keep your brick and mortar store in check. It says a lot about your brand and how you present it to the public. After all, customers want a pleasurable and attractive store to shop at.

Tough sport of skyrunning requires the perfect shoes

By Raquel P. Gomez

IT'S NOT HARD to find adrenaline-fueled activities that will give you a "high" according to Glenn Mundo of Philippine Skyrunning Association.

Skyrunning is different from regular running, says Mundo as "it requires you to run in areas [...] where snow was involved. Distances covered could be as low as 21 kilometers of uphill and downhill run."

Skyrunning is currently an emerging sport in the Philippines. The PSA, which was established in 2005, only has over 50 members, who frequently run in high altitude places like Mt. Pulag in the Mountain Province, Mt. Pico de Loro in Batangas, and other mountainous destinations.

Members of the group had participated in the Mt. Kinabalu Skyrunning event in Malaysia and soon decided to encourage skyrunning here in the Philippines by establishing the PSA.

"Skyrunning originated in Europe," says Mundo, adding that the growing athletes from these areas have to endure running in cold mountainous regions. The sport is now conducted in Asia, attracting people who are already into running or triathlons.

Mundo says skyrunning is a physically demanding sport, which requires the athlete to not only run long distances on inclined paths, but maneuver through rocky paths or water as well.

He says the sport really requires a good, particularly those who are strong and light enough to endure the ravages of mountains or sea.

"Skyrunning is actually a mixture of running and mountain climbing because you actually use the mountains. It's really difficult because of the high altitude factor. So aside from your feet and forearms, you should invest in a good pair of running shoes."

The best brand of shoes for skyrunning is Inov-8, says Mundo. "Inov-8 shoes tend to have more grip because they're designed for different terrains, be it pounding, stony, sand, rocks and even a bog."

The brand is actually popular among skyrunning athletes in Europe because the company who makes the trail running shoes makes a lot of research into running and endurance sports to come out with shoes that are light, sturdy and have a secure natural fit.

Recently, Salomon launched new trail run-

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Children's wear goes 'high fashion'

By Maribel D. Salazar

THE POPULARITY of the (most-hated) ball gown hops down to the young girls and jumpsuits for boys are waning. Now, there is such a thing as children's fashion and they're not talking about the usual stuff.

Children's fashion always means fun, dynamic, but still lovely and easy to wear.

Blame it on celebrity kids who make dressing up no longer kid stuff but serious business. And it also drives love fun it is to dress up. From ready-to-wear to designer dresses, kids have become more fashionable than their parents or as fashionable as their teenage counterparts.

"We want to feature up the sure of kids fashion in the Philippines," said Mon Yao Co Ong, chief operating officer of Rockwell Pitch Inc. "That's why we brought the Elle brand here."

For those in the know, Elle is a fixture in magazines in Paris. France, one of the fashion capitals in the world. It now circulated a designer brand which include kids and baby wear. The designs are not simple but not too "grown up."

"We are really pleased and happy to be carrying Elle," said Cristina Teves, marketing manager of Elle in the Philippines. "With carrying the brand, we also carry the sweetness of the brand and we want to be faithful to that."

Rockwell Pitch is showcasing Elle's spring and summer collection. "The style is classic but really versatile," Teves said. "We also want to go casual chic and let the kids play suit and match."

Elle says also sound like bringing up kids is fun to anyone from other saying a wide selection of fashionable clothes for girls, boys, and babies. The brand said the clothes were launched recently at the Rockwell residence. Aside from dresses, there are also different kinds of shoes and footwear.

On hip tots said that they want to be part of "enjoying up a global child. It helps for children already have their expressive tools in kind of costume and fashion." Elle styles have gained a single French touch that kids can read to learn. Eh! I'm meant boys as all. Bonjour to here means Hello the outfit and Gitter. Comme l'air means Fine likes us).

Elle's first collections have been inspired while discuss their may be good for attending birthday parties. The summer collection of shirts, blouses, and leggings are made of light materials to keep with the tropical weather. They are very comfy. Kids can see rid of tell-low, pink, blue but there is also of black clothes. The summer collection sets more bolder type for girls' basics.

While Elle, as a brand generally caters to the upscale market. Co Ong said for more they want Filipino children to experience and be educated with high fashion, the price is made more competitive.

"We conduct product development here in the Philippines," Co Ong said. "For orders with the brand we did a lot of balancing to see how the standards and overall look of Elle worldwide but still appeals to the Philippine market."

Aside from Elle, Rockwell Pitch also carries the Italian brand Chicco and Hunter Bedson.

Nikon D3100

Nikon Coolpix S1100

Cameras for summer time

PICTURES OR they didn't happen, they say.

It wouldn't have been more true today with the advent of so many social networking sites over the Internet and mobile phones and tablets.

This summer, capturing the real of fun with loved ones have never been easier — with two of the world's most powerful and revolutionary image-capturing devices from Nikon, the digital SLR camera D3100 and compact digital camera, Coolpix S1100pj, are now available in the Philippines.

Boasting the smallest and lightest digital SLR camera at 505 grams, the Nikon D3100 is equipped with 14.2 megapixel DX-format CMOS sensor-powered resolution and Full HD recording capability.

Designed for beginner 3- SLR users, shoot-and-feature and capture photographers, this innovative gadget comes with an enhanced Guide Mode function that suggests or adjusts camera settings to inspire newbies to shoot like a pro while creating desired end-result images.

Whether shooting for the wild romantic scenes or moving colorful scenes in Boracay, the Nikon D3100 provides better noise ratio to avoid graininess even more through Lively Colors, an image processing technique that keeps up the speed of high-sensitive images and Full HD 1920x1080 pixels of video clips.

The Nikon D3100 comes in rich image quality and intuitive Macro photography functions that let it 23 point-sensitive system and a powerful ISO range of 100-3200.

Leave the laptop and tablet behind as SD, SDHC, and SDXC memory cards do not need to have the Nikon D3100 to video. With Nikon's Movie HD software, it is already point like by user to edit photos and video clips in the camera itself. The engineered sophisticated technique of this camera now allows photographers to shoot with confidence and versatility whether on land or over the digital photos via its 3-inch LCD display. HDTV for the Nikon D3100 is rigged at 720/60P, an effortless price for professional performance.

Aside from the Nikon D3100, get to know ground-breaking advancement in the world of digital imaging using the Coolpix S1100pj, the enhanced compact camera with a built-in projector.

This stunning image taker with 14.1 megapixel photo resolution not only features ultra 3-inch touch LCD screen display but also features auto-rotate images and videos depend on your height by projecting the results onto any surface.

Through the help of a 14 Lumens (ansi) and projector, capture still and moving images from as close as 8" inches to from a distance of more than 7 feet with smooth clarity even in the screen. The display size has between 32.7 cm and 139 cm (12.87 inches) and the necessary distance to a projection surface must be 0.3 m to 2 m.

To make it easy to use, the coolpix's 11 built-in exposure modes such up effects Auto, Auto Smart Portrait and Scene Modes, and time the Coolpix S1100pj for maximum creativity of 640 x 640 capturing time the moment is stored.

Illustrator or learners as well by using the HE (720) movie recording capability. This digital compact camera with built-in projector projector sells for P23,999.

Not just another slimming belt

ONLINE HEADLINES' similar products in the market, this 'rotating belt' is backed by 40 years of technology that actually works.

You've seen excellent television commercials about slimming belts that promise results from flabby bananas to sexy-ness. Not whether the amazing results they show wisely stand to real life scenarios in doubt is the eyes of many. Not this one.

Slenderstone Flex is a clinically proven, easy-to-use ab belt that delivers a complete abdominal workout to firm and flatten the tummy area, with results visible as as early as 4 weeks.

"The product uses Electronic Muscle Stimulation (EMS) toning technology that creates strong, deep muscle contractions to tone your body, particularly your abs," said Jake Dolce Sinden, Slenderstone's brand associate.

According to Debra Santos, the EMS technology has been used for over 40 years in hospitals, rehabilitation and physiotherapy practices around the world to strengthen and rehabilitate muscles.

"It simply means the body's natural muscle movements, switching on the nerves that control your muscles, which causes them to contract as they normally would," she said.

Slenderstone Flex is available in B.I.G. stores and its 'Travel Club (Tiaconne and Home Plaza in Rockwell). For more information, visit www.slenderstone.com.ph. Also slenderstone Philippines on facebook.

Metrobank Card unveils Toyota MasterCard

TOYAZ SETS up when automotive giant Toyota Motor Philippines joins forces with leading card issuer Metrobank Card Corporation (MCC).

Toyota and MCC recently proudly unveiled in media and industry partners the country's first credit, loyalty, and discount card for vehicle owners: the Toyota Master Card.

Rico Metrobank, MCC president, launched the card saying that Toyota's card holders and owners of Toyota vehicles is in many ways. "It enhances your drive," he enthused. "This partnership is a result of the synergy between two reputable companies that are both deeply committed to their customers."

The Toyota MasterCard, which is the newest addition to MCC's roster of unique cards, provides customers a more enjoyable driving experience.

Unmatched perks and privileges include promos or discounts for genuine accessories, parts and labor at all Toyota dealers. Toyota Master Card cardholders can also earn a Rewards Point for every P50 spend, even speeding up to earn Double Points at participating Toyota dealers.

Among other benefits, cardholders like wise enjoy a 0% fuel rebate at over 400 participating Petron stations, as well as 20% P2 worth of car insurance.

Enhance your drive with the country's first complete motorist card — the new Toyota Master Card. Visit your preferred Toyota dealer today.

Help out the new grad in your life with Bronze Age Media's 'Notes From The Edge'

HOW DO you make the best impression when applying for work? How do you structure your resume to make it more attractive? How do you negotiate for better rates? How do you keep improving in your chosen line of work? And how can you make sure you're making the most from those elusive 10,000 hours on the path? And should you even start thinking about your career even when you're at college?

Having managers and professionals of many different career stages give their two cents on everything a college student and new graduate needs to know to shape their future is Notes From The Edge: Career and Job Hunting Advice for College Students. This is the first every career and life-planning guide produced by a Filipino company to an ebook for mobile devices.

Available via Amazon.com and various Barnes and Noble and Apple's ebook stores, its publisher, Bronze Age Media, calls Notes From The Edge "career advice in reputable device." It's currently iconic for the ground-breaking ebook, which can be read on the Kindle, PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, iPod, Blackberry and Android phones. Notes From The Edge is on an ebook spree of articles from Bronze Age Media's popular career-centered e-magazine for college students, EdgeWise.PH, said to the first volume is a continuing series.

"It's a response to the statistical evidence that most young adults these days are informed via the Internet and their mobile devices, whether it be Twitter, Facebook, blogs, their PCs or just plain text messaging," says Dean Arpa, Bronze Age Media president. "We took that into consideration, and developed a book that they can easily access just in a mobile device. It doesn't matter whether you have a Kindle or not – there are many ways to read Notes From The Edge, and many resources to get for free or to purchase."

Available on premier online book distributors Amazon.com and Barnes-n-nobles.com, it carries a rating from $1.99, or less than P100, pesos, relatives and friends can also send Notes From The Edge as a gift to the young adults in their lives. Quick links to Notes From The Edge's online outlets can be found at www.bronzeage.ph/book. For questions, please call the Bronze Age Media hotline (632) 399 7764. Visit www.bronzeage.ph/publishing to find out more about innovative digital publishing.

Ready, set, shop! Grand members-only sale at S&R Cebu

WITH UNLIMITED parts from food and tradition on warm sale at S&R, it's a grand time more to ring up those great lots, no first purchase for members only other to keep.

S&R Cebu's much-awaited info from March 18 to April 3 — S&R Members' Treat — covers a wide choice of food items including Bow Trek Style Pizza, dana chocolate Blue Bunny ice cream, imported tweets and sweeties from Europe and the United States.

There are among the many other products that are offered up to fifty percent discounts or more—no take-no-basis at S&R today's grand members-only sale.

S&R, the country's leading membership-shopping club, gives members the most attractive choices in local and imported brands, home wares, beauty and wellness products as well as convenience tools and services.

According to Kelly Sicke, S&R's operations head, the chain is always trying to offer its guests deals members like best value for money by conducting great member services, efficient logistics systems and innovating to ensure delivery of the freshest and best quality products.

"The excellence is truly with our suppliers to let shoppers take unique finds and fresh national food, beauty and home items. And all the other usual outlets, imported items at S&R are not priced higher," shares Sicke. "Our members love shopping here, quality and value for money coupled with more options for our members."

S&R Membership Shopping has five branches—Congressional Avenue in Quezon City, Ayala in Makati, Bonifacio Global City, Alabang, and the latest—the Cebu — the first outside Luzon. Mandaue City, Cebu.

Experience S&R Cebu today. Visit S&R at Ouano Ave. corner E.D. Jones Street, Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu.

Call (032) 344-4365 to log on to www.sandr-shopping.com for more details.

Model talks shopping for shoes, clothes, and gadgets

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

IT COMES as no big surprise that when it comes to shopping for clothes, this sexy 5'5 pure-vid model is a bit picky.

For Emerald Villahermosa, shopping for clothes is tricky because it's important for her to first know what the clothes are made of before she makes a purchase.

"I'd prefer clothes that are made of 100 percent silk or cotton," the young model told the Inquirer. "So much as possible I try not to wear stuff made from polyester because I [reason] they're not very good for health."

There was a time, she said, that she would scout Divisoria or "ukay-ukay" shops to look for gems from. While she did get some nice, small-to-average materials bags, shoes, clothes from there, she eventually chose the convenience of buying from branded stores in malls, mainly because of convenience.

Emerald started modeling in 2007, when she was 20 year old joined the PSBD Super Model of the World Philippines, in which she won. She was later featured in ads and campaign in New York, USA, that same year.

Since then, she has walked the runways here and abroad, wowing her stuff in Singapore, China, and Hong Kong.

When it comes to shoes, Emerald has some 15 pairs—nine of which have hills at least 3-inches high while the rest are flats and rubber shoes.

"I have to have so many shoes at any given time so I can match them with the outfit I need for a casting call, a photo shoot, or a gameday. The tallest shoes, I wear to go to my yoga class," said Emerald, who got a degree in organizational communications in De La Salle University-Manila.

But while it's natural for a lady to spend on clothes, shoes, and bags, Emerald is more of a gadgets girl.

"I am obsessed with gadgets—computer, laptops, iPods, mobile phones, any gadget I can play with. I've bought stuff over the Internet, from eBay and Amazon because they're much cheaper," said Emerald, who is under the care of Gil Cerezo's modeling agency.

But what is in Emerald's "model's bag"? For a photo shoot, she brings two sets of undies (nude and black), thongs, scarf, nipple tape, and my magic tweezers.

For a casting call, she has her make-up, set cards (portfolio), falls, and the required outfit (usually is black).

Over the years, Emerald has worked with big institutions such as the Philippine Fashion Week, Issey Miyo, Greenbelt 5, Mega, Metro Jumbo, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer Page-Off.

One thing's for sure: we'll be seeing more of this beauty in our fashion.

EMERALD, because of her height (5 ft. 10 in), prefers to shop in international brands because the clothes there fit her much better.

Tonipet on his favorite Californiaberry

MEET ENERGETIC, always-on-a-hush-out fitness coach-cum-entrepreneur Tonipet Gaboral Ulibarri, the first name anyone here asked. He recently went ahead of "Tom Lee's Fan" (watch out for very personality) to open shop. A serious health advocate, Tonipet's no-frills statement on every dish he puts his hands on makes mouth-watering eating adventure for the eyes.

A well-loved TV personality with his interesting passion on fun, Tonipet is currently hosting GMA's wi. 1 children's show for eight years, the Art Angel. Aside from that, he's also the host for the newly-revamped Tina Lee's Eat, called Way Talk sa tapat ng Tanghalan at 11 p.m. A De La Salle University graduate, this smart achiever guy is also a licensed nutritionist. The man who launched Kitchen Superstar, a cooking-reality show of GMA 7 airing on April 11 is another project he is so excited about nowadays, as he was tasked to officially direct the show.

While he's a busy man who's keeping his hand in balance his career and personal life, Tonipet just cashed in his personal outing pleasures. "I've been inspired with different types of cuisines, given the privilege to be riding the best resort and food places in the country. So my personal time, eating with my favorite people is one of the things I usually look forward to. Californiaberry is definitely one of the best hotspots to my list ever since I got to discover their lifestyle brunch, considering it's very near many workplaces," Tonipet shares.

The delectable lovely-hearthed pairs dishes are one of his hair-less comfort foods. Recommended pasta discovery made Tonipet more visible to Californiaberry diners, especially it's now located on 23 Scout Rallos corner Tomas Morato St. in the seafood affordable cubic toast bites—along with fresh seafood stuffs in it, especially prepared with the best option and ingredients. He's also a big fan of Californiaberry cole-he-frapp which he loves to bring home with him every time he chills out in his most precious free times. Aside from the refreshing, smiling effort of Californiaberry frapp-ccino that he initially fell in love with, he was also the first customers who grew tired with the pasta offerings. Californiaberry being the only frapp-ccino-with-a-pasta.

A loving boyfriend, brother, son, co-worker and a friend to his Child's family, Tonipet also makes sure they get to bond over celebrations held on the table. "People are united and celebrate through food. Families bond over home-cooked fare. Holidays have been known to unite through shared meals; so any chance to partake—even just a simple dish or dessert is a concern I always cherish," Tonipet shares excitedly.

For the latest updates on events and promotions, follow Californiaberry on Facebook fan page. For inquiries about franchising, call (632) 476 1626 or e-mail franchise@californiaberry.net.

Tough sport skyrunning requires the perfect shoes

From page J1

ning shoes called the XR Gramosia Skyrunning trail running shoes that are designed to provide unmatched fit, grip and response for athletes who incorporate all surfaces into their training regimen.

The XR Gramosia Neutral trail shoes were developed in collaboration with Jonathan Wyatt, who is a four-World Champion in mountain-running and 2-time Olympian in the Marathon.

According to Eric de Meza, business development officer at Prince Group of Companies, distributor of the Salomon products here, the XR Gramosia shoes provide a maximum of comfort and durability, grip, and take that perfume and finish in fast, fine-grain and more technical trails.

The shoes have "sensifeet" technology, which is a more up-to-date approach of providing support and freedom of movement to the heel of the foot. Molded in a seventh-neck liner, a shoe pattern of TPU supports the heel foot with absolutely no chafing or binding. Freedom of movement combined with support reduces fatigue, a major injury-risk moment.

The shoes also feature a new monograph sole compound and geometry sole, multiple densities to maximize traction on all surfaces and improve durability of the shoes.

"Testing by SAS (a sister durable company), placed us in the middle point of the ride in the heel, where soles typically wear out first," says de Meza.

Another unique feature is the integration of EDL (contrast tendon) component into the midsole of the shoe that literally acts like a cushion. It helps make the shoe more stable, improves energy return by helping the shoe snap back to its place after flexion, and makes energy transmission more efficient.

In a TV commercial, New Zealander Jonathan Wyatt explained the versatility of the XR. "Whether I decide to race into Everest on the path or race to the mountain, the XR is the perfect choice for my every day training needs."

Said to be the skyrunning sport, Rhonda says the organization is open for members only, but applicants need to satisfy first the requirements, such as having run in a skyrunning event before. "In long, as you have experience to running high altitude terrain, you could join," says Rhonda.

The benefits of skyrunning according to Rhonda include enjoying the fresh air and nice mountain terrain. "When you go as the highest levels, sometimes you see certain altitudes, when you're going to see around 10 thousand different. You get a majestic view of the mountain itself and the majestic views of the ground below. Then you start to see clouds. You're practically running in the clouds."

FROM left: Oscar Pineda - General of the Philippine Skyrunning Association, Eric de Meza - business development officer for Laguna Sumatrana Co Inc., a member of the Prince Group of Companies, Vanessa Phillips - Asian Skyrunning Federation - EDP and countries transfer director of the marketing, services division of the Prince Group of Companies and triathlete-trail-ligo Lopez

Pacsafe offers smart travel gears

"TRAVELING this summer is one of the most enjoyable moments in life and it's something that everyone should do—really to see country which locate with different cultures, big shows, sights. However, most travelers are worried about keeping their possessions safe. It is a sad fact that there are pickpockets, bag-slashers, bag snatchers, and sneaky thieves lurking around waiting for you to become complacent with your bag.

Pacsafe, one of the earliest products of the new Pacsafe business may perfect designed for travelers, by travelers, Pacsafe is known worldwide for its smart and chief technology and anti-theft accessories that is now available together with its new brand threat to reinvent the anti-3 with plans built the confidence and security to travelers.

Pacsafe's collection include bag that features slash-proof straps, slimmeth slash guards, and smart zipper security built into each one. Its only you will be able to unzipper. Great but you can have the peace of mind while enjoying your much-deserved vacation. If you're always on the go, the new Cross Body Sack of the brand's anti-theft series is a good portable bag that can store your valuables. It can also be placed either on your back or front.

For those traveling in groups or with their families this summer, Pacsafe's new Family Travel Organizer makes traveling easier with this efficient organizer which can hold up to 6 passports and 3 boarding cards. It's an also put your various IDs, cash, tickets, talking cards, and more.

If you want to further maximize theses and gadgets, the Mini Pacsafe bags the

PACSAFE series is perfect. Measuring no more than 3 inches, it can store your most valuable belongings such as cash, credit cards and cash/phone. The Retro Wallet could be hidden under clothing and has an adjustable armband so that it's user-friendly.

And with personal ID technology system tag no one does the risk of identity theft. For more information about Pacsafe products, visit Pacsafe's RFID Passport Protector that's a must of the air travelers/frequent users. Additional. It cover fits well to passport pockets and pouches.

Aside from the anti-theft designs that makes each Pacsafe bag not only functional but an investment in security, new colors such as Mediterranean Blue, Sportivo, Cool Steel and Grape Wine make each bag a fashion statement too. Now Pacsafe bags are available in The Travel Club, Rustpark, S.O.S., selected stores of Rustan's Department Store, select stores of SM Department Store, Rahs Manila, Fashion Bank - NAIA 3, Duty Free - Pasay Mall, Carousel Boutique - SM, 3, 7, select stores of Benguet, Urban Adventure and Planet Mac Centre.

For inquiries, e-mail: info@pacsafe.com.hk, or visit www.pacsafeasia.com.

Stylish 'Solemate' for summer

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE SEARCH for the perfect "solemate" is over.

That's because with the arrival of Native Shoes, you'd find yourself wearing the most fashionable, trendsetting, and lightweight footwear in the land.

"More than a brand, Native Shoes is a concept," said Chris Bryan, the company's global sales director, who was in the country to help launch the brand. "Our designs cater to just about for anybody and everybody."

Native Shoes is a popular shoe brand created and developed in 2009 in Vancouver, Canada, that goes beyond conventional canvas variety, maintaining a classic silhouette that is versatile, and great for everyday wear.

Native Shoes is lightweight, washable, waterproof, antimicrobial, and odor-resistant all the things you'd ever wish your footwear has. This is made possible by the light-weight, foam-injection-molded EVA material that molds to the feet, giving results that are easy to wear and great to look at, whatever time of the day it is, wherever you are.

"We'd like to espouse in the Philippine market our philosophy of just keeping everything fun, even during tough days. Feeling and stayed with great footwear," said Shawna Olsson, Native Shoes' global marketing director.

Both technologically innovative and eco-friendly, Native Shoes boasts of footwear made from tangibly colored EVA material, which molds to your feet. This highlights the foot's iconic silhouettes, keeping things simple and comfortable.

Native Shoes designs are very versatile one can wear it from the office to a night out with friends, from shopping to a mall to going to church; from staying at home to walking your dog in a beach.

From the first collection it launched in Spring 2010, Native Shoes has gone a long way. Today, Native Shoes is available in 22 countries including the USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, Australia, Italy, France, the UK, Denmark, and Kuwait.

"We're happy that Native Shoes is performing really well, exceeding our expectations. The only regrets is to double the amount of work we do because people are responding (positively," said Ivana Smith, global marketing director.

According to Olsson, it's a award and fun-ny feeling every time she sees online posts by people who have seemingly become obsessed with the brand posting pictures of their multiple pairs of Native Shoes in various stages of, well, obsession.

Out of the many lines of shoes that has permeated the world over these last year, four of them makes their debut in the Philippines this month and one this April through premiere lifestyle brand hotlist, the Pitinet Group of Companies.

The five-piece Spring Summer 2011 Collection that make up the current style line-up for the Philippines are Miller, the brand's take on the "classic shoe" as in really for any occasion; Cornelia, perfect for nature lovers and people who love outdoorsy adventure.

There's also Howard, the stylishly rich and absolutely dating design that says "rebel billionaire" in every angle; and Jericho, which will leave the preppys crowd satisfied to a tee.

Rounding out the five-piece collection is Jefferson, by far the bestselling design in

OLIVIA: Feeling good starts with great footwear

SMITH: We'll continue to focus on innovation

MOYES: More than a brand, it's a concept

MILLER

Native Shoes brings you the lightest, most fashion-forward footwear this season

CANADA-BASED officers of Native Shoes strutt the good stuff in the streets of Manila

JERICHO

HOWARD

Native Shoes dont but sweet battery. This design features a classic sneaker-cut perfect for casual days.

"Every shoe name has a story to tell. We may have it from a person who we like so much or have helped us a lot," she said.

While Native Shoes has no plans in the near future to produce sport-tood footwear, they promise to keep on developing trend-setting designs that push the envelope while keeping to signature "Native Touch."

Smith said: "We'll continue to focus on innovation, focus on form and fashion of our designs, so we can enrich more people and provide them with the best footwear they can ever have. But as the company grows, the vision always remains. We keep it light for now and for tomorrow."

Keep your way to a perfect Summer with

stars by visiting select Rustan's Department Store, Rep/You/Ben, R.O.X. (Rowcommercial Outdoor eXchange) and Shoe Salon stores nationwide.

LIFESTYLE

It's a FABULOUS SUMMER at DEBENHAMS

The sizzling summer is finally here and that means one thing for the ladies: it's time to hit the beach! Make sure you're ready to soak up some major summer sun with Debenhams' fantastic swimwear collection for women. Slip into a wide array of swimwear styles from bandeau bikinis to cut-out swimsuits. Accessorize with a Debenhams beach sarong and a stylish hat for the ultimate island chic look. Whatever your style and body shape, Debenhams' in-house and designer brands have the right swimsuit for you. To give you the most flattering fit yet, Debenhams has recently launched a line of body shaping swimsuits to enhance all the right curves. The powerful mesh technology flattens the tummy and defines the waist for a fit that is irresistibly sexy. So head on to Debenhams and find the ideal summer gear, whether for a day in the pool or a wild time on the beach.

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PICKS for SUMMER
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Life. Styled by DEBENHAMS

HOME is where the style is

The summer wonderland your home with Debenhams' unique and exclusive collection of affordable designer and own brand home items. **Renowned British designer Matthew Williamson** launches a bold and colourful new collection, **Butterfly Home**, inspired by global travel. Bedlinens, beach towels, mini cushions from **Matthew Williamson's home range** feature the vibrant pattern of 'Acid Tattoo' and 'Mistress' signature style. Pricing at £12.50 tattoo duvet cover, home collection that will add a touch of exotic and style to any home.

Debenhams' designer **Ben de Lisi** applies his iconic graphic style to his top home range. the French buildings make an appearance once again, vividly translated on cushions, home decors, and bedding collections. So give your home a quirky twist with **Ben de Lisi home's unique, signature style.**

With its own distinctive style, Debenhams' own home brand by Jill Stuart makes it a sophisticated palette of mineral tones and a modern take on floral pattern are seen throughout its collection of **bedlinens, cushions and throws.** Bedlinen is kept modern and simple in shades, with a brushed cleaning finish, in a fabulous mustard shade.

To make your home style this summer with Debenhams' exclusive collection of home essentials. Add a touch of colour and vibrancy style to any room with decorative accessories from your favourite Debenhams designer. Keep your summer guests happy and comfy with Debenhams brand's luxurious collection of bedlinens, available in a variety of unique prints and colours that will surely impress. It's time to take a journey living to a whole new level of comfort and style with Debenhams' home.

Debenhams glassware set

Ben de Lisi cushions

Butterfly by Matthew Williamson beach towel

SHOWER UP in 4 totally refreshing FASHION

Ben de Lisi beach towel

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DepEd

2nd INVITATION TO BID

The Regional Division of Camarines Sur, through its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to submit their sealed bids for the following projects:

Name of the Project	Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Naga City	Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) Unit Classroom Set	Php 1,000,000.00
2 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Camaligan, Camaligan Sur	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Two (2) Unit Classroom Set	Php 2,000,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Naga City	Supply and Delivery of Materials and Labor for Building	Php 1,500,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Camaligan, Camaligan Sur	Supply and Delivery of Materials and Labor for Building	Php 1,500,000.00

Bidding for the above Contracts is open to all duly licensed Filipino and foreign contractors as may be allowed under RA 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, and organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) ownership or interest duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and/or its equivalent document for foreign bidders under the Philippine laws, pursuant to the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 25 July 2003 of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM). The Bidder shall be registered under the following trade classification and must have the following minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR):

Name of the Project	Classification	Minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR)
1 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,000,000.00
2 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 2,000,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,500,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,500,000.00

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the dates given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (₱5,000.00)** for each contract.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Activities	Schedule
1 Publication/posting	March 23, 2011
2 Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 23 - April 13, 2011
3 Pre-bid Conference	March 30, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
4 Deadline for Submission of Bids	April 13, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
5 Opening of Bids	April 13, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
6 Bid Evaluation	April 13-14, 2011
7 Post-qualification	April 15-18, 2011
8 Notice of Award	May 4, 2011

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Securing Declaration or any of the following forms and amounts: (a) Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank – 2% of ABC; (b) Surety Bond – 5% of ABC if issued by a Surety or Insurance Company duly certified by the Insurance Commission to issue such surety bond.

The Regional Division of Camarines Sur reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to declare the bidding as failed, and to waive any defect therein, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s). Bids not in accord with all the requirements of the Bidding Documents shall be rejected.

For further information, refer to:

Dr. Aurelio D. Gonzaga
Chair, BAC Secretariat
Telefax No.: (054) 473-2147
Telefax No.: (054) 473-2147 local 116
Email Address: region5@deped.gov.ph
Website: www.region5.deped.gov.ph

(sgd.) CRISTINE B. MORCILLA
BAC Chairperson

(PEN – March 23, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION OF CAMARINES SUR
San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur

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2nd INVITATION TO BID

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Name of the Project	Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Naga City	Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) Unit Classroom Set	Php 1,000,000.00
2 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Camaligan, Camaligan Sur	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Two (2) Unit Classroom Set	Php 2,000,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Naga City	Supply and Delivery of Materials and Labor for Building	Php 1,500,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Camaligan, Camaligan Sur	Supply and Delivery of Materials and Labor for Building	Php 1,500,000.00

Bidding for the above Contracts is open to all duly licensed Filipino and foreign contractors as may be allowed under RA 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, and organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) ownership or interest duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and/or its equivalent document for foreign bidders under the Philippine laws, pursuant to the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 25 July 2003 of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM). The Bidder shall be registered under the following trade classification and must have the following minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR):

Name of the Project	Classification	Minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR)
1 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,000,000.00
2 CLASSROOM SET (CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM)	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 2,000,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,500,000.00
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY, TWO (2) CLASSROOM BUILDING	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 1,500,000.00

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. during office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the dates given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (₱5,000.00)** for each contract.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Activities	Schedule
1 Publication/posting	March 23, 2011
2 Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 23 - April 13, 2011
3 Pre-bid Conference	March 30, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
4 Deadline for Submission of Bids	April 13, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
5 Opening of Bids	April 13, 2011 (10:00 A.M.)
6 Bid Evaluation	April 13-14, 2011
7 Post-qualification	April 15-18, 2011
8 Notice of Award	May 4, 2011

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a Bid Securing Declaration or any of the following forms and amounts: (a) Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank – 2% of ABC; (b) Surety Bond – 5% of ABC if issued by a Surety or Insurance Company duly certified by the Insurance Commission to issue such surety bond.

The Regional Division of Camarines Sur reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to declare the bidding as failed, and to waive any defect therein, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s). Bids not in accord with all the requirements of the Bidding Documents shall be rejected.

For further information, refer to:

Dr. Aurelio D. Gonzaga
Chair, BAC Secretariat
Telefax No.: (054) 473-2147
Telefax No.: (054) 473-2147 local 116
Email Address: region5@deped.gov.ph
Website: www.region5.deped.gov.ph

(sgd.) CRISTINE B. MORCILLA
BAC Chairperson

(PEN – March 23, 2011)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 5
San Agustin, Pili, Cam. Sur

INVITATION TO BID

(Label Services for the production of 114,000 pcs. seasonally propagated pili seedlings under Pili Development Program)

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 5, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur is implementing the Philippine Pili Development Program in the Bicol Region and other Pili-growing areas, thru Agricultural Extension and Applied Research Program (Commodities: Rice, Corn, Coconut and Agroforestry) under Production Support to Key Commodities of the DA-RFU No. 5 for the Program-Supported Pili Seedlings under Pili Development Program, as per project specifications in the accompanying bid documents.

The Approved Budget for the Contract is **THREE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (₱3,300,000.00)**.

Eligibility and Bidding procedures governing award of the project shall be made available and may be acquired by interested bidders at the DA-RFU No. 5 Procurement Section from BAC-Secretariat Legal Office starting on March 25, 2011 until the close of office hours on 11 April 2011. Upon submission of Letter of Application and Affidavit of Undertaking, the bidder shall be provided with the Bidding Documents consisting of the Bid Data Sheet, Technical Specifications, Terms of Reference, Contract Form, Bid Form and other pertinent documents.

Prospective bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on April 4, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room, Agricultural Training Institute, DA-RFU No. 5, Pili, Camarines Sur. Attendance of the prospective bidders and their authorized representatives is highly desired but not required.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, and organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) ownership or interest duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and/or its equivalent document for foreign bidders under the Philippine laws, pursuant to the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 25 July 2003 of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Budget and Management (DBM). The Bidder shall be registered under the following trade classification and must have the following minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR):

Name of the Project	Classification	Minimum Financial Capability Rating (FCR)
Label Services for the production of 114,000 pcs. seasonally propagated pili seedlings under Pili Development Program	Medium Scale Contractor	Php 3,300,000.00

Deadline for submission of bids is two (2) o'clock/ 2:00 P.M. Monday/ April 11, 2011 in accordance with Section 5.3.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be conducted by the Bids and Awards Committee at 2:00 P.M. on April 11, 2011 at the Conference Room, Agricultural Training Institute, DA-RFU No. 5, Pili, Camarines Sur. Bidders or their authorized representatives are invited to attend the bid opening.

The DA-RFU No. 5 reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract upon submission of a prime bid or because of valuation considered to be unreasonable, or even any bid, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to waive any defect therein, and to accept or reject any bid that is deemed most advantageous to the government. In the event of failure of bidding, or in case no bid is responsive, the Bids and Awards Committee shall declare a failure of bidding. In all instances, the determination of the BAC shall be final and conclusive upon all bidders.

Any bid which is incomplete, unbalanced or conditional, including bids with prices that are unreasonably low as determined by the BAC, shall be rejected.

Any bid submitted by a joint venture shall comply with the requirements of Section 23.1(b) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Further, the DA-RFU No. 5 reserves the right to disqualify any bidder who has been found to have committed any of the prohibited acts enumerated in Section 47.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

For more details, please call the BAC Secretariat, Bicol Integrated Legal Office (Tel. No. (054) 473-0380 loc. 116) or the Legal Office, Pili Camarines Sur or log on to our web site: www.region5.deped.gov.ph or http://da5.agnet.org.

(sgd.) JOSE N. DAVAD, CESO III
Regional Executive Director

(PEN – March 23, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. V
Pili, Camarines Sur

March 23, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporation/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
1.	ARROW TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Rongjun Hong Korean	Department Manager, CS Department, Technical Group
2.	MITSUI KOMPO PHILIPPINES, INC. Clo Pioneer Center, Brgy. Ilaya, Cdo	Mr. Shinichi Tanaseda Japanese	Vice President
3.	PHIL-JP TEXTILE CORP. Brgy. San Juan, Talisay, Negros	Ms. Shannen Lee Castle of Hon Yuen Chinese	Assistant Operations Manager
4.	LITTLE LIVER PHILS., INC. Cebu Technology Park, IBEC, Lapu City	Mr. Ronald B. Hilado American	Director of Global Customer Service
5.	FILIPINAS GREEN SOLUTION, INC./JELAS MANAGEMENT, INC. #400 Brgy. Libertad, Tambacan, Mahayag	Mr. Takeshi Yamaguchi Japanese	Chief Executive Officer and President
6.	S & T CEC APPAREL CORP. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Myung Ho Park Korean	Technical Design Manager
7.	SAME APPAREL, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kim Ryong Lee Korean	Executive Director
8.	EASTEC APPAREL, INC. PEZA Compound, Mike Road, Brgy. San Juan, Talisay, Batangas	Mr. Seung Cheon Hong Korean	Marketing Manager
9.	PHILIPPINE AUTO COMPONENTS, INC. LOT 1, Canlubang, Laguna City	Mr. Minoru Akao Japanese	President
10.	SUNNY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL Sunnyside Road, Tagaytay City	Mr. Jeffrey Allen Fisher American	General Manager
11.	CAPITOL PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING CORP. Lima Technology Center, Lipa City	Mr. Shinya Morimoto Japanese	Senior General Manager
12.	TSP, INC. Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Isamu Tanaka Japanese	Factory Manager
13.	GLOBAL HUB TRADING & MARKETING CORPORATION Harbour View Mangaging Road, San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna	Ms. Myungsun Kim Korean	Sales Manager

If any party can show reasonable objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Office.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ JR., CESO III
Regional Director

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need a job?
Read
JOB Market
every Sunday

ACEJUREN MANPOWER AGENCY
POEA – R5-LB-030919-48
NOTICE OF TRANSFER
In compliance with POEA Rules & Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Land-based Overseas Workers under Part II Rule I Section 1 (i) Instruction and Memo, please be informed that our office will be transferred to Unit E, 8th Floor, ETRACA 150 Building, San Francisco, Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City effective March 31, 2011.
(PEN – Mar. 25, 2011)

JOB Market
For advertisements, inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8000 loc. 3114
You can now checkout more jobs in JobMarket Libre
JOB Market

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144 or 722-1155

DO YOU WANT A FULFILLING CAREER IN
TELEVISION?
JOIN THE TOP RATED NOONTIME SHOW
AND **BE PART** OF OUR TEAM!

WE ARE HIRING:
SYSTEM ENGINEER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
CCU MAN
FLOOR DIRECTOR
LIGHTING PROGRAMMER
ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN
CAMERAMAN
LIGHTMAN

APPLY **NOW** AT:
TELEVISION AND PRODUCTION EXPONENTS, INC.
[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE
CITY OF TAGUM

Invitation to Bid for the Procurement of Goods and Services for Stage Production-Kwentapad (Phase 4) at New City Hall, Minor Roads and for Construction/Completion of Multi-Purpose Building at New City Hall, Bldg. Aguinaldo, Tagum City.

Invitation No. 10-03-B-1-386

1. The Municipal/City Government of _____ through its procurement unit intends to apply the sum of _____ being the ABC to payments under the contract for _____ [illegible]

2. The Municipal/City Government of _____ now invites bids for the above Procurement Project. Delivery of the _____ is required _____ days from the date of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within _____ [illegible]

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

4. Bidding is open to all interested contractors, suppliers and manufacturers as defined under the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184), unless disqualified as provided therein. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Municipal/City Government and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during _____ [illegible]

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents, pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of _____ [illegible]

6. The Municipal/City Government of _____ reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. [illegible]

7. For further information, please refer to:
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

8. [illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

USED SERVICE VEHICLES FOR SALE

The **AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS)** through the AFP-RSBS Disposal Committee, invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on "cash" or "term", "as-is, where-is" basis:

Item No.	Description	Owner	Minimum / Floor Price
1	One (1) unit 1996 Toyota Corolla SE	RSBS	₱ 60,000.00
2	One (1) unit 1996 Toyota Corolla SE	RSBS	₱ 110,000.00
3	One (1) unit 1997 Mitsubishi L300	RSBS	₱ 40,000.00
4	One (1) unit 2003 Mitsubishi L300	RSBS	₱ 250,000.00
5	One (1) unit 2003 Mitsubishi L300	RSBS	₱ 250,000.00
6	One (1) unit 2000 Toyota Tamaraw FX	RSBS	₱ 180,000.00

For interested parties, please note the following activities that will be held at the Board Room, AFP-RSBS, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.:

Pre-Bidding Conference:	Deadline for Acceptance of Bids:	Opening of Sealed Bids:
April 4, 2011	April 14, 2011	April 14, 2011
9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.

Bidding documents shall be available starting April 4, 2011 at the General Services Department (GSD), AFP-RSBS Bldg., 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

For inquiries, please call Joan or Irene at 912-8062 or 912-1855 during office hours.

(Sgd.) **ERNELIZA T. HIZON**
Chairman, Disposal Committee

WANTED TO BUY

300 square meters of white Narra planks from old houses

Please contact Violago Homes at telephone numbers **9107880**, **5719997** and **5719998**

ANNOUNCEMENT

TO ALL SJP CREDIT COOPERATIVE MEMBERS:

Please be reminded to attend the 40th Annual General Assembly and Election of Officers on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 4PM! BRING NO ALIBIS. SJP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. Registration will start at 1:00 PM followed by General Assembly and Election of Officers until 5:00 p.m.

MANAGEMENT

need a job?
LOG ON TO
[illegible]

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentrong Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply and qualify and to bid for the following project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	[illegible]
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	[illegible]
Source of Funds	[illegible]

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirements assisted and completed from [illegible] to present amounting to at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids and evaluation shall be based on "passed/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated and responsive bid/offer.

All contractors' interest in Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Submission of Bids, Post-Qualification, and execution of contract criteria governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete attendance/ activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	[illegible]
2.	Pre-Bidding Conference	[illegible]
3.	Deadline of Submission of Bids	[illegible]
4.	Opening of Bids	[illegible]
5.	Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
6.	Post-qualification	[illegible]
7.	Notice of Award	[illegible]

The IRR and Checklist of Requirements for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the BSP Website (www.bsp.gov.ph). The complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address stated above upon payment of the PHP2,000.00 Cashier's Order from and payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PHP2,000.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or reimburse bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to declare the bidding a failure, and to cancel the contract, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s. Furthermore, the BSP reserves the right to waive any minor defects or formality and to accept the proposal most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) VICTOR D. ABALOS
Vice Chairman

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

Description	Quantity
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES	Schedule
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

People, Events & Products

United Continental Holdings partners with ARC

UNITED CONTINENTAL Holdings Inc. announced that it will support the American Red Cross efforts to provide aid to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. United and Continental will provide cross-border mileage bonus to members of Mileage Plus and PlusPoints who contribute to American Red Cross. Members who give a minimum of $50 will receive 2500 bonus miles and those who contribute $100 or more will be awarded 5000 bonus miles. United Continental Holdings is committing at no fee million miles for contributions made before April 30 to support this initiative. In addition, the airlines are preparing to transport doctors and other health care workers to assist in humanitarian efforts, and they are donating cargo space to transport relief supplies to the region in conjunction with specific shippers. Individuals who want to support the disaster relief efforts should visit the American Red Cross website to make a cash donation: http://americanredcross.org/pages/donateNow.aspx. Customers may also donate miles. Mileage Plus and PlusPoint members with accrued miles can donate their miles to a charity through their respective airline's program. Many international relief organizations send personnel and volunteers to assist in the affected region, and the donations of miles will help defray their expenses. Throughout the programs, Mileage Plus and PlusPoint members can donate a minimum of 1,000 miles to any of the designated groups involved in the relief effort. To donate miles online, please visit united.com and continental.com. You may also donate miles by calling Mileage Plus Customer Service at 1-800-421-4655 or PlusPoint Customer Service at 1-63-902-1630.

Some 'prom'-ising prospects at Tutuban Mall

SHOPPING FOR special dresses or suit can be very overwhelming, more so if you are not used to the normal dress scene. But especially for the prom fashion-and sensible-like ones, Tutuban Mall, the shopping destination that's at the heart of Divisoria, assures moms that they will have a satisfying, convenient and quality shopping experience. Whether you are looking for trend-setting style, conservative attire or sexi-carpet options, there's something for you at Tutuban Mall that is perfect for your budget and imagination. Tutuban Mall guarantees that you can find the perfect outfit for your prom. If you fancy yourself the Prom King or Prom Queen this season, or you are working for be the ballerina of the ball or king of the court, there go to Tutuban Mall, located along Recto's Cliff, Recto Avenue in Manila.

Maybank opens branch in Clark Freeport Zone

MAYBANK IS further strengthening its presence in the Philippines by making the big move to the Clark Freeport Zone. The newly-opened Maybank Clark branch is positioned as a one-stop financial shop offering customers a portfolio of products and services suited to meeting a variety of needs. Located within the Bonifacio Park Clark Center Compound, Maybank Clark is right in the heart of an emerging community that features, at full build-out, an information technology business park, commercial shopping centers, entertainment complexes, residential areas and a school campus. The Clark Freeport Zone is already considered a premier business destination given its attractive tax package offerings, professional support services and high technology environment. It is also fast becoming a major international gateway given its proximity to major Asian destinations such as China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore via the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

Sen. Legarda opens 'Handog kay P-Noy Jobs Expo'

SEN. LOREN Legarda was the guest of honor and keynote speaker at the "Handog kay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2011 - Part 1" and the "5th Pamilyang Dinomeste Kilusan Workers (DKWs)-Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) Summit Expo" which kicked off at 10 a.m. today at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Miguel Ayerbe, Pasay City. The PTTC is beside the World Trade Center. Legarda is expected to tackle her legislative agenda for the 15th and 16th Congress. The event will also feature a press conference and a forum where the presidents of the SPA and KBMB members and be briefed. Its inputs will be consolidated into a position paper which will be submitted later to Sen. Legarda's and the formation of the "Pamilyang DWKs Micro Pamilyang Entrepreneurs Kilusan" group.

Win an Apple iPad from Yeet

THE SUMMER leading digitarea brand launches all its 2011 campaign "Yeet Me," which will award one lucky winner with an Apple iPad, plus a deliver-it-handy Bridgestone model Daniel Mallonga, who will personally treat her bags. Runners-up will receive an iPod touch, an iPod nano, iPod shuffles and Yeet gift packs. Yeet assistant brand manager Ina Medford explains that the iPad and Daniel Mallonga are more than just results in a survey they conducted on their target market, revealing that things most high on the mood-o-gic's wishlist. The contest is open to Filipinos over 18 years old above, who are the chance to win the grand prize by uploading a video or photo story on www.yeetme2011.com. The entry should show the use of Yeet on the legs. Log on to the promo site for more details. Promo runs until March 31.

Pancake House Group serves the ultimate card

MORE THAN 1,000 individuals are now enjoying the perks and privileges of the Orange Card - Pancake House Group's first-ever loyalty card which was just launched in November 2010. All Orange Card holders are now enjoying exclusive offers once a lot of them have already exchanged their points for food vouchers from select stores redeemed for various branches of Pancake House, Tempo Bar, Bistro Filipino, Breadtalk, Tapa King, Dencio's, Kuh-ma-ri, Le Coteau de France and Soup Creation Dining. The Orange Card continues to deliver the perfect dining experience to valued guests across all the restaurants under the Pancake House Group, wherever they are located. In fact, they can choose among the Group's more than 180 outlets. For those who want to have their Orange Card application form are available in all outlets. For the registration fee, one may present a single or accumulated receipts from any of the Pancake House Group restaurants worth P1,000 or simply pay the P200 membership fee. Every P50 spending is equivalent to 1 point. Points can be exchanged for food vouchers. The Orange Card is valid for dine-in, group reservations and take-out transactions. For more information, you may e-mail orangecard@pancakehouse.biz.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIVISION OF ZAMBALES East

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Zambales East, through its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and submission of bid for the following projects:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
CIP C - CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (P1 SCHOOL FURNITURE (P1 SCHOOL	Barangay Cawayan, Masinloc, Zambales (3rd Congressional District)	Basic Tables & Chairs - 1,200 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 100 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 50 units	Php 1,272,000.00 1,272,000.00 636,000.00 636,000.00
CIP C - CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (P1 SCHOOL FURNITURE (P1 SCHOOL	Barangay Cawayan, Masinloc, Zambales (3rd Congressional District)	Basic Tables & Chairs - 1,400 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 100 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 50 units	Php 1,484,000.00 1,484,000.00 742,000.00 742,000.00
CIP C - CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (P1 SCHOOL FURNITURE (P1 SCHOOL	Barangay Cawayan, Masinloc, Zambales (3rd Congressional District)	Basic Tables & Chairs - 800 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 100 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 50 units	Php 1,060,000.00 848,000.00 106,000.00 106,000.00
CIP C - CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (P1 SCHOOL FURNITURE (P1 SCHOOL	Barangay Cawayan, Masinloc, Zambales (3rd Congressional District)	Basic Tables & Chairs - 1,200 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 100 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 50 units	Php 1,272,000.00 1,272,000.00 636,000.00 636,000.00
CIP C - CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (P1 SCHOOL FURNITURE (P1 SCHOOL	Barangay Cawayan, Masinloc, Zambales (3rd Congressional District)	Basic Tables & Chairs - 1,200 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 100 units Teacher Tables & Chairs - 50 units	Php 1,272,000.00 1,272,000.00 636,000.00 636,000.00

1. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday (excluding holidays).

3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on **28 March 2011** from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00)**. Bidding documents may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the said date.

4. The DepED-SFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **31 March 2011** at **2:00 PM** at the DepED BAC Conference Room, DepED-Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City which shall be open to all interested parties, but only prospective bidders shall be allowed to participate.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **14 April 2011** at **10:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 18**.

6. Bid opening shall be on **14 April 2011** at **10:00 AM** at DepED BAC Conference Room, DepED-Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. To facilitate evaluation of Bids, interested bidders may apply for registration with the DepED-BAC through the DepED Secretariat not later than ten (10) days from the scheduled submission and opening of bids as mentioned in item 6 above.

8. The DepED-SFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

DepED Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Basement, DepED-Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No.: (632) 421-1251
Telephone No.: (632) 421-2601 local 28 to 30

(Sgd.) **JAZEL ERNESTO S. BONE**
Chairman, DepED-BAC

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region XIV
DIVISION OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Bacolod City

DepED

Invitation to Bid for the Construction of Classrooms for CY 2011-Basic Educational Facilities Fund (BEFF)

1. The DepED Division of Negros Occidental through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and submission of bid for the following projects:

2. The DepED Division of Negros Occidental through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites bids for:

Project No.	Scope of Works	Name of School	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Completion Time	Bidders Fee
01	Construction of Two (2) Storey, 6-Classroom Type C School Building	Sta. Teresita – Candaguit Annex	Sta. Fe	3,000,000.00	60 CD	3,000.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Pinapugas NHS Annex	Barangay Pinapugas	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Alimpay, Candaguit Annex (Pinapugas Annex)	Barangay Candaguit	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Pinapugas NHS	Barangay Pinapugas	1,500,000.00		
02	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Pulot ES (Bacolod Sub - Annex)	Barangay Pulot	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Cadiz Viejo ES	Barangay Cadiz Viejo	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Caromay ES	Barangay Caromay	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Binicuil NHS	Barangay Binicuil	1,500,000.00		
03	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Pulupandan ES	Barangay Pulupandan	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Sagua-an Pulupandan ES	Barangay Pulupandan	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Barangay ES	Barangay Pulupandan	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Alijis ES	Barangay Alijis	1,500,000.00		
04	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Taloc ES (Annex ES)	Barangay Taloc	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Bata-bata ES	Barangay Bata-bata	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Mailum ES	Barangay Mailum	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Taculing NHS (Second NHS Annex)	Taculing	1,500,000.00		
05	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Bulata ES	Barangay Bulata	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Punta Mesa ES	Barangay Punta Mesa	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Cabatangan ES	Barangay Cabatangan	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Cagamutan ES	Barangay Cagamutan	1,500,000.00		
06	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Tuburan ES	Barangay Tuburan	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Cadiz Nuevo ES	Barangay Cadiz Nuevo	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Cadiz Nuevo ES	Barangay Cadiz Nuevo	1,500,000.00		
07	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Tuburan ES	Barangay Tuburan	1,500,000.00	60 CD	1,500.00
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Tuburan ES	Barangay Tuburan	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Tuburan ES	Barangay Tuburan	1,500,000.00		
	Construction of One (1) Storey, 2-Classroom SHE	Tuburan ES	Barangay Tuburan	1,500,000.00		

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepED Division Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). Bidding documents may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the said date.

5. The DepED-BAC will conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on **March 31, 2011 10:00 a.m. at Division Office Conference Hall** which shall be open to all interested parties, but only prospective bidders shall be allowed to participate.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **April 07, 2011 a.m. at Division Office Conference Hall**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

7. Bid opening shall be on **April 07, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Division Office Conference Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. To facilitate evaluation of Bids, interested bidders may apply for registration with the DepED-BAC through the DepED Secretariat not later than ten (10) days from the scheduled submission and opening of bids as mentioned in item 7 above.

9. The DepED-SFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

ROMEO EMMANUEL C. INFANTE
BAC Secretariat
DepED Division Office
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Email address: deped_neg_occ@yahoo.com
Telefax: (034) 434-2147

(Sgd.) **LOURDES S. HEMEZ**
BAC Chairperson

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

Invitation to Bid for CAA Communications Acquisition Project

1. The **Department of National Defense/Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND/AFP)**, through the **AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund (AFPMATF) with Garcia Pulayan Arboneval Ordas (GAAS)** the **P2,500,000,000** indicated as appropriation sum of **Sixty Million Pesos (PHP 60,000,000.00)** during the 2011 Budget for the Contract (ABC) to passionately under the contract for **CAA Communications, AFPMP-2-PA-10-001**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The DND/AFP now invites bids for the **supply and delivery of three hundred seventy (370) sets UHF Base radios, one hundred fifty (150) sets UHF handheld radios**, including the **Integrated Logistic Support (ILS) package**. Delivery of the GOODS is required within a period of **ninety (90) calendar days**. Bidders should have completed, within **three (3) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section VI. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday (excluding holidays).

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on **28 March 2011** from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00)**. Bidding documents may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the said date.

6. The DND/AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **31 March 2011** at **2:00 PM** at the DND BAC Conference Room, DND-Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City which shall be open to all interested parties, but only prospective bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **14 April 2011** at **10:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 18**.

8. Bid opening shall be on **14 April 2011** at **10:00 AM** at DND BAC Conference Room, DND-Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

9. To facilitate eligibility checking, interested bidders may apply for registration with the DND-BAC, through the DepED Secretariat not later than ten (10) days from the scheduled submission and opening of bids as mentioned in item 8 above.

10. The DND/AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

11. For further information, please refer to:

DND Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Basement, Main Wing, DND Building
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No.: (632) 421-1251
Telephone No.: (632) 421-2601 local 28 to 30

(Sgd.) **JAZEL ERNESTO S. BONE**
Chairman, DND-BAC

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING
April 14, 2011

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the Amended By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City, Metro Manila, on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at 9:00 A.M., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of meeting to order
2. Certification of notice
3. Determination and declaration of quorum
4. Approval of the minutes of the annual meeting of the stockholders on April 15, 2010
5. Reading of annual report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of December 31, 2010 incorporated in the annual report
6. Approval and confirmation of all acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and all other Board and management committees and offices of BPI
7. Election of 15 members of the Board of Directors
8. Election of external auditors and fixing their remuneration
9. Directors' Bonus
10. Other Matters

In accordance with Article XII of the said Amended By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from March 15, 2011 to April 14, 2011. Only Stockholders of record as of March 15, 2011 will be entitled to notice and to vote at this meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila not later than 5:00 P.M. of April 05, 2011. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on April 07, 2011 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. AQUINO**
Corporate Secretary

JOSELIA "JOSIE" JUNSAY POBLADOR

joined her Maker on 24 March 2011 at the age of 65.

She was the eldest daughter of the late
Jose Posadas Poblador and Amalia Junsay Poblador.
She was also an accomplished lawyer, an honest public servant, a beloved sister and faithful friend.

She continues to live in the hearts and fond memories of those who love her:

her mother AMALIA;

her sisters and brothers VICKY; AIDA and husband BOBBY; HELENA; ALEX and wife TING; POL and wife GIGI; CAESAR; and NANCY and husband TOM;

all her nephews and nieces: CHRISTIAN; STUART, ANDREW and IAN; JOEY, LIA, PAENG and CARA; LANI and CALVIN; GOLDIE, RICKY, CHAS and ANTON; DANI, GIO and MIGGY; CHRISTOPHER and CATHERINE; her grandniece, AMIRA; and all her friends.

JOSIE's remains lie in state at the Heritage Park Fort Bonifacio.

Interment mass will be celebrated on Saturday, 26 March 2011, at 8 am at Heritage Park, after which interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

Loyola Memorial Chapels

AUGUSTO M. MANALO, M.D.

JANUARY 5, 1935 to
MARCH 23, 2011

His wife Raquel; children Reena, Monique & Jun-Jun; sister Consuelo; in-laws, grandchildren, and the rest of his family, friends, colleagues, and everyone else whose life he has touched request for prayers for the eternal repose of his good soul.

"Do not think that you will have all the time to watch the beauty of the sunset, or smell the flowers that bloom in your garden. There is a time for everything, a time to bask in the glow of the sunlight or feel the tears come down your cheeks like midnight rain."
— Dr. A. Manalo, Dec. 2010

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT THE
OUR LADY OF REMEDIES CHAPEL
DON ENRIQUE HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY

AND WILL BE CREMATED ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011
AFTER THE 9:00AM MASS.

MATTHEW JAMES SIMPAO CALLANTA

of 80 Homes, Sucat, Parañaque

passed away on March 23, 2011 at the age of 13

His parents Marlon Lopez Callanta and Jacqueline Simpao Callanta; brothers and sister Martin, Jaden, Mikee; grandparents Perlita D. Flores-Callanta, Manuel C. & Violeta Simpao; relatives and friends, request the prayer audience pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels
(Parañaque Extension), Sucat, Parañaque

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque
on Sunday, March 26, 2011, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."
– Joshua 23:14

Dra. Remedios Naval Rosauro vda de Guevarra

Cherished in the peace of our Lord in her home in Bacolod
April 28, 1917 – March 23, 2011

Wedding of Balanga, Bataan and Quezon City was
the widow of Col. Jose C. Guevarra (USA).

Her children, Noelle (P), Nabila, Nestor, Jaime, Camelo, Ramon, nephews, nieces, grandchildren & great-grandchildren and relatives request the prayer audience pray for the repose of her soul.

Wake at La Funeraria Paz, Aurora Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. followed by interment in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Cerebral Palsy Association, Roosevelt Ave., QUEZON CITY.

Judge ULPIANO INES CAMPOS

of Manila, Ilocos Sur

January 13, 1932 – March 18, 2011

His loving wife Adoracion; children: Hadlia S. Rapa, Hedina, Adan, Ferenia S. Reing, Paulo Emil, and Ephraim (†); grandchildren: Aida, Nigel, Hana, Dax, Angie Leah, Ben, Tata, Ariana, Nina, Adrienne Mikah request the prayer audience pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Bangui, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Sinait Catholic Cemetery.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and Post-to-Save payments

People, Events & Products

red Mobile launches lowest-priced unlimited postpaid

NOW THERE is a postpaid mobile phone plan that lets subscribers make round the clock unlimited calls and texts for just P399 a month.

Leading wireless service provider Smart Communications Inc. (Smart) through Connectivity Unlimited Marketing Enterprises Inc. (CUME) is launching a postpaid version of its unlimited call and text brand red Mobile.

Simply called red Mobile Postpaid, this new product comes in a Plan 300 package in the theme of all day all night unlimited red to red voice calls and texts plus 300 free texts to all local mobile networks.

"red Mobile was the one that introduced the lowest-priced 'call' packages: Dali Quarter (unlimited voice for P49 and Dali Octo (unlimited calls and texts for P8). Now, through the postpaid version, red mobile is introducing the newest, better and lowest unlimited red postpaid plan," said Sandy J. Mojica, head of Smart's Wireless Consumer Division.

"With these affordable unlimited options whether for prepaid or postpaid, combined with Smart's superior network coverage and services, red Mobile is further strengthening its position as the unlimited brand with the best combination of value and quality," Mojica added.

Initially available within Greater Manila Area (GMA) and selected outlets, red Mobile Postpaid Plan 300 can be easily applied for at accredited distributors. Visit an financial documents needed, all that the subscriber needs to present is a valid ID. Subscribers may opt to subscribe to the SIM-only plan or bundle the red Mobile Postpaid SIM with an affordable handset that costs as low as P999.

Subscribers may also sign up at red Mobile Postpaid mall events happening at SM Megamall on April 2 to 3 and SM North Edsa on April 9 to 10.

"With this easy application process and its affordable monthly fee, red Mobile Postpaid is ideal for those who want a quick postpaid plan with a bundle free 'just dial' or 'just send' unlimited call and text service. No keywords or special dialing instructions necessary," said Mojica. "We encourage the public to avail of the savings of this offer and let the whole family, group or circle of friends subscribe, to better experience red Mobile's strongest unlimited," he said.

To know more about red Mobile postpaid, call 924-9999 (Metro Manila landline), text servus redmobile <name> to 2924 (Globe's official Facebook community at www.facebook.com/redmobile. Subscribers may also inquire at authorized distributors and outlets of Commoria, Mega Cellular/Mega Duo Phones and Gadgets, Fort Gizmo Phone Outlets and Outlord. Just look for the red Mobile Postpaid signage.

Marriott Manila gears up for Environmental Awareness Month

EVERY APRIL, Marriott celebrates "Environmental Awareness Month" to encourage environmentally responsible business operations, to raise awareness of environmental issues and to involve associates in "green" efforts. To mark the day Marriott will participate in Earth Hour, apart from switching off unnecessary lights, the hotel will also encourage guests to turn off room lights for 60 minutes starting from 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26.

Reflecting the mood of the Earth Hour, the hotel's two restaurants: Marriott Café and Cru Steakhouse will have a special candle light theme dinner for the enthusiastic diners while The Lounge will have a special wine and cheese night with unplugged entertainment. Associates (staff) of the property were encouraged also to do the same in their accommodations with their friends and families. They were set hotlinks to switch off unnecessary equipment and to reduce the consumption of water, electricity, fuels and gas.

General manager Richard Steel said, "We never ever wanted to participate in this global call. Through this campaign, we would like to show our commitment to make the world a better place for us and our future generations. Marriott's observance of "Environmental Awareness Month" where we'll have various eco-friendly activities, such as tree planting, nearby community clean up, daily energy saving practices, and much more," added Steel.

According to chief engineer Hardy Cervancia, to support this effort, his team has been doing ecological programs such as recycling used oil, concentrating on repairing leaks and damaged water lines, replacing all normal lamps with energy saving lamps, "by using these energy saving lamps, now we can save more than a thousand kilowatt-hour but it's not a matter of how much dollars we save, it's a matter of what we can do to make the earth a comfortable place to live for our next generations," explained Cervancia.

For more information about Marriott's commitment to the environment visit www.marriott.com/environment.

COCOLIFE OPENS TWO NEW BRANCH OFFICES

THE LATEST FROM NOKIA'S OVI STORE

AXEL BRUNO'S BARBERS FORGE COMMITMENT